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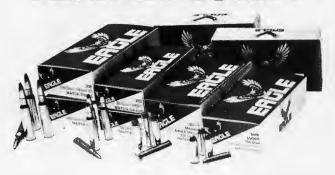
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EDITOR'S NOTE

An open letter to the boys in the KGB and in Soviet Military Missions everywhere.

Dear Boris:

Just thought you would like to know that things are going quite well for

Soldier of Fortune and all the gang in Boulder.

We received, from our friends in South Africa, the body armor one of your officers was wearing last year when the South Africans singed your tails in Angola during Operation Protea. Pete Kokalis's evaluation of it appears on page 41 of this issue. Talk to the boys in quality control, Boris; Pete says your armor wouldn't stop a souped-up BB.

In case you weren't aware of it, Pete, Bob Brown and Jim Coyne were up on the Pakistan/Afghanistan border recently to test-fire some of your latest weapons, including the AGS-17. Pete's story on your grenade-launching AGS-17 will appear next month; if you're buying SOF on the

stands, you better hurry - it might sell out.

The Afghans sent a few souvenirs for me. I haven't had a chance to do much collecting since I turned in my expense account from Monte Carlo

and Paris — RHIP in assignments here too.

Getting to the point — I know you're busy with problems in Poland, Afghanistan, El Salvador and the Horn of Africa — they sent me one of your belts, complete with the hammer-and-sickle belt buckle. The Russian the Afghans took it from in Kabul must have been in excellent shape — I had to let it out some. Our Afghan friends didn't have time to get his paybook so I can't tell you who he was, but if you write for details, maybe you can find out.

Jim Morris is back from El Salvador and Robert Caldwell is out of Guatemala. You guys need to take the troops out to the practice range

more often.

Your boys in El Salvador whizzed a few over Jim's head and your troopies up in Guatemala couldn't hit the chopper Caldwell was in, even though it was making passes only 30 feet off the ground. According to them, your boys are not doing too well. Life in the jungle can get nasty, as well as deadly, when the "indige" take it seriously and do it right. Jim's and Robert's stories will probably run in March and April, maybe sooner, since we have a lot of other trips planned for your areas in the near future and scheduling is tough when you have so much excellent copy.

Got to admit though that your disinformation department is doing well over here. Despite all our efforts and the efforts of the Wall Street Journal and Reader's Digest — we're keeping better company these days — Americans don't know what you guys are up to in the area of chemical munitions. A recent Wall Street Journal survey showed that only 22 percent of the people in this country realize you guys have been gassing people since WWII and 57 percent didn't even realize our government had accused you of it. The real stunner was that 12 percent of the college-educated respondents thought Yellow Rain was a form of pollution. Maybe the article by Dave Isby on page 58 will enlighten a few more Americans.

Oh well, SOF will keep on chipping away.

Have to close and catch a plane. Don't bother to ask where.

Stay low, sucker, Jim Graves

P.S. "Mekong" Jimmy Coyne appreciates the offer from your KGB guy in Bangkok to take him to Russia, so you could show him the truth; but he's been too busy in Afghanistan. We sent someone else instead; I'm sure you understand why he didn't make a courtesy call at your office in Dzerzhinsky Square.

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SOF

JANUARY/1983

VOL. 8, NO. 1

CIA'S DEER GUN Sgt. Gary Paul Johnston Secrecy shrouds fate of this made-for-Vietnam pistol. 22

LONG LIVE BLACK BART

William D. Watson Staying sane where it's hell for Hueys, 23

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HILAIRE DU BERRIER

Jim Graves From Flasher to Flyer. 26

SKYRAIDER! George C. Morris

A-1 airplane of the Vietnam War. 34

MAD YANKS & ENGLISHMEN

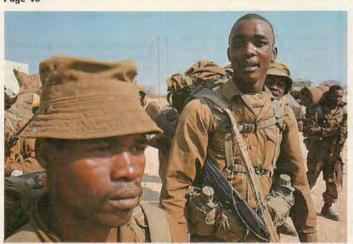
Jake Jatras SOF goes abroad for European IPSC encounter, 38

BAD NEWS FOR BORIS

Peter G. Kokalis Communist chic finds cotton doesn't cut it. 40



Page 46



COVER: South African troopies fire captured Russian 23mm ZSU 23-4 antiaircraft gun in forward base inside Angola. Since Operation Protea in 1981, the face of war in South West Africa has changed dramatically. Current probes into southern Angola by South Africans have been accelerated, leaving almost 1,700 SWAPO terrorists dead in the last 16 months. In this issue, SOF covers the ongoing war of attrition, where the Soviet-backed terrs are losing good soldiers and allies. See Al J. Venter's "Springbok Update," on page 46. Photo: Al J. Venter

TAIWAN'S TUNNEL VISION Rick Venable

Chinese go bonkers over bunkers. 42

SPRINGBOK UPDATE

Al J. Venter South Africa winning a war of attrition. 46

FIELD COMMANDER

Peter G. Kokalis Steiner glasses give bearings for military maneuvers. 52

SOF's PLAXCO WINS U.S. IPSC TITLE Bill Guthrie

SOF shines in Illinois shootout. 54

RED RAIN

David C. Isby The silent killers of the Soviet arsenal. 58

FLAK 6
Combat Pistolcraft 8
In Review 10
It Happened to Me 12
Full Auto 14
Bulletin Board 16
Adventure

Quartermaster 18 Editorial 20 Classified 93 Advertisers Index 95

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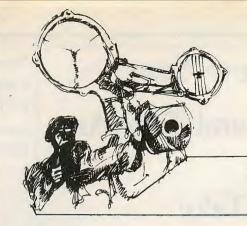
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FLAK

MUELLER ERRATUM ...

Sirs:

I received a photocopy of your October '81 issue from an old U.S. War Horse and he obviously found the fact that I am seen on page 26 ("Paycheck Soldiers") quite interesting. Indeed, I have noticed occasionally when I am mentioned that this or that is incorrect, even when it is written by such types who are known as scholars in the field of contemporary soldiering. This is not singular, as you surely will have experienced during your life, and the older we become the more we notice that present historical events are distorted and how much is wrong in the history of olden times where we are unable to check!

While it looks nice what is shown of myself, the fact that I was in the SS is wrong. And on page 30 I see a picture of Maj., later Lt. Col., Mike Hoare with his bodyguard (who passed away a year ago). Mike commanded during this time the 5 Commando. The 5th Brigade was commanded by Col. Vanderwalle, the Belgian adviser to the president of Katanga, Dr. Moise Tschombe. Vanderwalle in fact wrote the best book about the Congo episode. (Certainly also with some mistakes but who is free of them?) Later Col. Mulamba commanded the brigade whose combat forces for a while I commanded when the "March to the North" took place.

In any case, it was nice having a chat with you and I salute you very friendly, as always.

Col. Siegfried F.H. Mueller Republic of South Africa

UKRAINIAN QUESTION ...

Sirs:

Bill Guthrie's review of *The First Guide* to *Prisons and Concentration Camps of* the Soviet Union (SOF, July '82) was outstanding; however, one aspect requires comment. The caption, "Rebellious Ukrainians — who joined the Germans rather than live under communist rule...," creates the false impression that Ukrainians generally joined with the Germans.

In June 1941, Ukrainians welcomed the Germans as a liberating force. Such a welcome was entirely justified in the con-

text of: the destruction of the independent Ukrainian state by the Red Army in 1921 and the enforced incorporation of Ukraine into the Soviet Union, the genocidal policies of Lenin and Stalin, the deliberate starvation of 3-5 million Ukrainian peasants in 1932-33, the deportation of additional millions to slave-labor camps and the mass murders of Ukrainian intellectuals in 1941 by NKVD agents retreating from LVIV and other places within prewar Poland.

As early as September 1941, Ukrainians perceived the true nature of German fascism. Ukrainian nationalists who desired a Ukraine free of both Russian and German totalitarianism organized the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. UIA waged war against the military forces of both the Soviet Union and Germany extensively and with considerable tactical success. The number of Ukrainians who joined UIA vastly exceeded the number "who joined with the Germans." The UIA conducted military operations within the Soviet Union until 1954! The achievements and sacrifices of those heroic freedom fighters has not been forgotten. Any suggestion that they joined with the Germans must be vigorously challenged.

For information concerning the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, your readers should contact the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003 or the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, 2118A Bloor Street, W. Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6S 1M8.

Very truly yours, Michael B. Ryan Attorney at Law Tenafly, New Jersey

You did not mention the number of Ukrainians in the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UIA). Our sources indicate that the number of Ukrainians who enlisted in German-sponsored military formations were as follows: Abwehr Gruppe "Nachtigall," 500; Abwehr Gruppe "Roland," 700; Polizei Rgt. "Galician" (20.03.43),

Continued on page 92

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etch in an elaborate banner General Eisenhower's famous pre-invasion command: "Accept Nothing Less Than Full Victory!" For the first time since the war, the wartime Wilkinson Sword crossed-sword trademark will be etched on the shoulder of the blade. This has been selected from the historic Wilkinson Sword pattern library in London especially for this issue.

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worthy knife and as a museum-quality showpiece. To accompany your knife and display case you will also receive an exact reproduction of the historic command letter signed by General Eisenhower and distributed to the troops of the invasion armada the night before D-Day. This and the numbered Certificate of Authenticity can be displayed with your knife.

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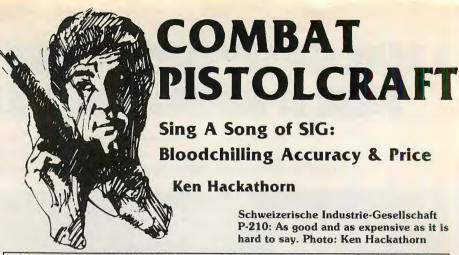
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F you need the best — and can afford the best — you need a SIG P-210.

Although few American shooters have heard of the manufacturer, Schweizerische Industrie-Gesellschaft (SIG) has an almostuniversal good name among followers of military weaponry. SIG began making firearms in 1860, made the first mass-produced self-loading rifle — the Mondragon SL — in 1908 for the Mexican Army, builds the near-legendary Sturmgewehr 57 for the Swiss Army and designed and produced the 710-3 general-purpose machine gun which Jane's calls "one of the most advanced GPMGs today." The P-210 contributes not a little to SIG's reputation for advanced design and careful manufacture.

The P-210 is a single-action, self-loading, short-recoil pistol with a slide that moves inside the frame. The magazine holds eight 9mm Parabellum rounds although one of the pistol's ancestors, the Model 44/16, had a 16-round box. The barrel lock is a Browning type, but the action is based on a Charles Petter patent that SIG bought from Societe Alsacienne de Constructions Mecaniques in the '30s. In one version or another, the Petter-patent SIG pistol has been used by Swiss Army and police, the West German Border Police and the Danish Army.

SIG's 9mm pistol is popular in European combat-shooting circles, and the P-210 has begun to make inroads in American competitive shooting. It is incredibly accurate and extremely reliable. Only its blood-chil-





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HOLSTER & LEATHER GOODS, Dept. SF1 155 JERICHO TURNPIKE • MINEOLA, NY 11501 • 516.742-7900 ling price — in the neighborhood of \$1,500 — keeps it from dominating IPSC 9mm competition.

American shooters like the pistol quite well, but there are two modifications most competitors apply. The safety is secure and in a fine position, in front of the stocks behind the trigger, but it is hard to hit when you're moving fast. All it needs is a small extension. The magazine latch is the usual European type: on the butt. Although I've never become accustomed to butt latches, I have heard that they are nearly as fast as the magazine release on a Colt 1911 after the latch-spring breaks in — if you practice. But if you shoot competitively, those pieces of seconds stack up, and the butt latch will hardly do. A gunsmith can change the butt latch by installing a S&W M-39 magazine release or by installing a thumb-lever that trips the butt latch.

The trigger pull of the SIG is unsettling, until you get used to it. It's an unusual three-stage pull that is slack at first, then there is take-up under tension followed by release of the sear. Once the shooter adjusts, it is clean, smooth and perfectly reliable, like everything else about the gun.

Bad luck for IPSC major-caliber shooters: the P-210 doesn't come in .45 ACP. Still, there are other caliber advantages to the SIG. By changing parts on the original frame, you can shoot 7.65mm Luger and .22 long rifle. Aside from its relatively small magazine for a full-size semiautomatic pistol, the SIG P-210 may well be the best self-loading handgun in the world.

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IN REVIEW

WAR IN PEACE: An Analysis of Warfare Since 1945. Consulting Editor, Sir Robert Thompson. London: Orbis Publishing Ltd. 1981. New York: Harmony Books, One Park Ave., N.Y., NY 10016. 312 pp. Illustrated. \$25.00. Review by Andrew C. Tallone.

AR has shaped this planet. It has brought people together and torn them apart. It has turned underdeveloped, so-called backward countries into world powers. It has transformed peasants and paupers into national heroes. It has brought world leaders to their knees and toppled mighty nations. But warfare has never had such a profound effect upon the face of this planet and all its myriad people as in the last four decades.

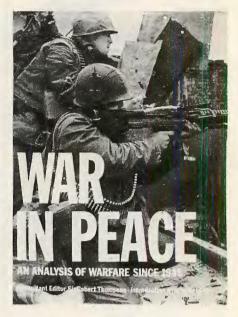
Never, to my knowledge, has there been a more complete account of what has happened since World War II than in **War in Peace**. Now, take note, that *is not* War and Peace.

War in Peace represents an incredible effort to document the more than 25 wars, conflicts, revolutions, counterrevolutions, coups, countercoups and acts of terrorism that have shaped our world in the 35-odd years since the end of WWII.

War in Peace explains, in depth, incidents that you may never have heard of. Laid out in a magazine-style format, virtually every page includes full-color photographs (many of which have never before been published), maps, charts, diagrams, etc., all arranged in a logical sequence. Each incident has several short, easy-to-read, one-to-three-page articles covering various facets of that conflict: Subjects include the history and the reasons behind the conflict, and the leaders involved; each side's forces, weapons, allies, tactics and victories or defeats are covered separately.

The book traces modern conventional and guerrilla warfare from the rubble of the post-World War II world to the present, unfolding the delicate fabric that ties one event to another. You can follow the "evolution" of war — from Mao Tse Tung's creation of the concept of modern guerrilla warfare to the high-tech, fireand-forget wars of today.

Just a few of the conflicts covered include the Chinese revolution, the unsuccessful Greek revolution, the Korean War, war-torn Indochina and Malaya in the 1950s, the Cuban revolution, four major conflicts between Israel and her Arab neighbors, countless African conflicts (i.e., Kenya, Algeria, Congo, Angola, Biafra, Ethiopia, etc.), Hungary's desper-



ate bid for freedom, the Indian-Pakistani war, Vietnam, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Iran-Iraq war.

What could have been a mind-boggling amount of information has been so well delivered that it is indeed a joy to read. Written with the true military enthusiast in mind, it is also readable for the novice to the field of modern warfare.

Consulting Editor Sir Robert Thompson is, as you might expect, a military man himself, with a colorful past. He was directly involved in the Malayan Emergency in the 1950s, and from 1961 to 1965 he headed the British Advisory Mission to Vietnam. Since then he has been adviser to several governments on counterinsurgency operations. Other books by Thompson include Defeating Communist Insurgency and Revolutionary War In World Strategy, 1945-69.

War in Peace is the one book that no military reference library should be without.

Former Marine Andrew C. Tallone has been an SOF reader since the magazine's inception. After reading War in Peace, he was compelled to share his thoughts on this book with the rest of our readers. We welcome Tallone's review to the pages of SOF.

DAS BOOT: The Other Side of World War II. A film written and directed by Wolfgang Petersen. Based on the novel by Lothar-Guenther Buchheim. Starring Juergen Prochnow, Herbert Groenmeyer and Klaus Wenneman. Produced by Guenter Rohrbach. Columbia Pictures. Copyright 1982. Soundtrack available from Atlantic Records. Review by William Brooks and William Guthrie.

THIS movie depicts the life of a German World War II U-Boat (submarine) crew, which sorties from La Pallice, France, in 1940 to attack British shipping in the Atlantic. Das Boot (the Boat) shows the character of men at war from the inside out. You can almost smell the oil. diesel fuel, sweat and the repugnant stench of the crew after weeks of a bathless existence; and feel the tension of the attack and the fear of death during numerous depth-charge attacks.

The viewer will find himself crammed among a chaotic jumble of pipes, cables, supplies, weapons, intricate machinery and filled with super-human verve. Wolfgang Petersen makes the audience

the crew of Das Boot.

Accuracy of equipment and character portrayal remind the viewer more of reincarnation than of special effects and acting. In fact, reincarnation very closely describes the making of this movie with its two Type VII-C submarines built from scavenged WWII parts and new replacements. Interiors are faithfully decorated with sausages in festoons and molding bread in hammocks, duplicating Buchheim's pictures of the original boat. (See SOF's review of *U-Boat War*, December '79.) "Special Effects" is the wrong phrase for storm scenes shot in real storms with real submarines under conditions so bad that the editors fell back on calmer footage, since wind and water in the more violent weather simply made the subs invisible, even from close range.

Petersen's attentiveness to the original text reproduces the sublime boredom of long confinement. One scene shows a young sailor picking his nose, silently, elaborately, and then artfully flinging the product at his neighbor. Flat, heavy silence follows. Finally, the nose-picker asks his neighbor if he has any hair up his nose. "Yes, why?" the other sailor answers. The nose-picker says he has some up his ass and they should braid it

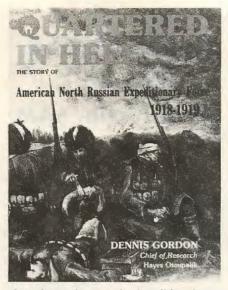
together.

Das Boot has a conscience too. No knee-jerk, ex-post-facto moralizing, just the deep, humane compassion of one sufferer for another when the U-Boat had to leave the survivors of one of their victims. There was no room and no food. They could only drive on to their own ends.

Perhaps the most realistic war movie ever made, Das Boot is unmarred by voiceovers. Clear and accurate English subtitles parallel the German dialogue. An English voiceover version, The Boat, has also been released in the United States. Das Boot is one of the most powerful, beautiful, frightening, coarse and sympathetic movies ever made.

QUARTERED IN HELL. By Dennis Gordon. The Doughboy Historical Society and G.O.S., Inc., P.O. Box 3912, Missoula, MT 59806. 1982. 318 pp. Illustrated. \$11.95. Review by John Metzger.

HROUGH extensive research and L personal interviews, Dennis Gordon has told the story of the Polar Bears: the American North Russian Expeditionary Force, 1918-1919. Quartered in Hell is one



of the few serious works describing American, British, French, Canadian and White Russian soldiers fighting the Red Army in North Russia. More than 400 Americans died fighting communists between August 1918 and January 1920.

Full of heroism and sadness, this fascinating work deals with a little-known incident. Families of those who died there were not told where their sons were killed, and the soldiers, for the most part, had only a vague idea what they were there through the frozen campaign felt sold out gressive Soviet aims and actions. R

- compared to their doughboy counterparts in France who knew why and for whom they were fighting.

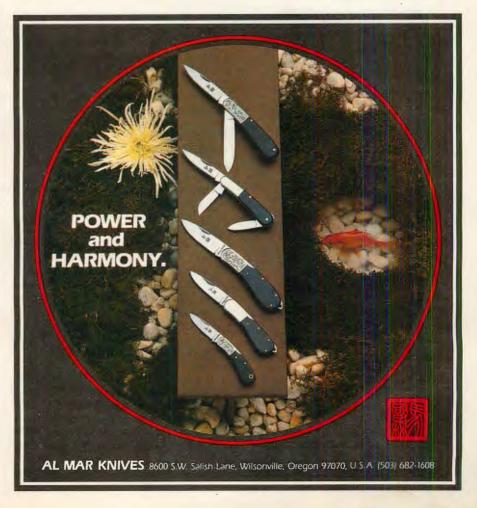
Quartered in Hell will be an excellent addition to military-history libraries with its first-person narratives and rare photographs of a little-known campaign.

THE BALANCE OF MILITARY POW-ER. By Col. William V. Kennedy. St. Martin's Press, Dept. SOF, 175 5th Ave., New York, NY 10010. 1982. 208 pp. \$24.95. Review by John Metzger.

THIS book provides an authoritative look at the Soviet-Bloc arsenal versus that of NATO forces. Using nearly 400 color and black-and-white photographs, maps, charts and tables, the author provides a clear look at the real balance between us and them. Weapons and capabilities of both sides - from the smallest grenade to the most deadly chemical weapon — are compared by experts in an accessible format.

The Balance of Military Power looks beyond statistics to the quality, effectiveness and potential capabilities of the two alliances, taking into account the complex combat conditions that may occur in an East/West conflict.

This revealing book clearly shows the for. With British organization serving delicate balance of power, and dispels any British interests, Americans who lived illusions that the West is free to ignore ag-



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It Happened To Me:

LINEBACKER LEGACY

Try It Again, SAM

by Charles E. Shinn as told to M.L. Jones

By December 1972 it was clear that the Paris negotiations to end the Vietnam War were stalemated. President Nixon had halted bombing north of the 20th parallel in anticipation of an expected truce, and when it became apparent that this would not occur, Nixon authorized execution of "Linebacker II," a three-day maximum effort of B-52s against the Hanoi-Haiphong area, whose aim was to shut off the flow of equipment and supplies to the North, and, presumably, to force North Vietnam back to the conference table.

Charles E. Shinn was an Air Force staff sergeant assigned as a B-52 tailgunner with the 62nd Bomb Squadron when "Linebacker II" went into effect. As he tells it:

OUR Barksdale E-14 crew was deployed to Anderson AFB in Guam in May 1972. By December we had flown missions in South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam. We had had some near misses but for the most part there was no real threat to our B-52.

On 17 December all aircraft commanders (ACs) were called to the Arc Light center. The grapevine had the word out before our AC got back. This time we were going to Hanoi!

My crew was scheduled to fly Amber 1, the lead aircraft of three in amber cell. We assembled with 72 other crews early on 18 December for briefing. Our target was the Hanoi railroad yard. This time there'd be plenty of very real threats to our B-52.

As we headed for our aircraft, I saw a friend, A1C Chuck Bebus, who was to fly cell lead in Charcoal 1. We wished each other luck, promising to meet for a drink when we got back.

Our crew checked in, preflighted the aircraft, taxied out and an hour later were on our way to Hanoi. We air-refueled over the Philippines and started the last leg in. It was dark as we neared the coast of South Vietnam. We could hear the SAM calls from the 52Ds ahead of us going in from Thailand and emergency beepers as crewmen ejected from falling aircraft.

We flew into Laos, heading north along the North Vietnamese border. We turned off our lights and turned into our target, the biggest SAM site in North Vietnam. As we turned, I heard Red Crown calling Charcoal 1 several times. No answer until an unfamiliar voice replied, "Charcoal 1 is gone. Charcoal 2 is now lead, proceeding to target."

As we started inbound, we began getting SAMs. The headset was full of noise: jamming, radar pulses, SAM calls, MiG calls and beepers. I could see the dots coming up on my fire-control radar and heard dull thuds and flashes outside as the missiles exploded in and around our cell. We started our bomb run, 60 seconds straight and level. The RN counted down in a calm, even voice: "Five-4-3-2-HACK." I felt the aircraft lift as the

The navigator said, "Turn right."

Suddenly I heard a loud double bang and saw a bright flash. The aircraft fell off on the right wing.

The AC said, "Jesus Christ!"

I heard the AC of Amber 2 transmit "Oh my god, we just lost number 1!" My heart came up in my throat. I thought, "Oh god, not here." I glanced to my left. Maj. Sexson's eyes said the same thing. We watched the red light on the panel above our heads that would tell us to eject - it didn't come on.

When I felt the aircraft begin to fly again, I went back to my radar. We got the cell back together and made it outcountry fast. We spent the next seven hours hoping the aircraft wouldn't come apart on us before we reached Guam.

At Anderson, the crew of Amber 2 told us what had happened. As we started the right turn, two SAMs passed under our left wing and exploded over the tail. They saw us disappear in the fireball and thought we had blown up. Our only damage: the tail of our aircraft was black and lots of access panels and fasteners were missing. We ended up receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism.

We were lucky, but the crew of Charcoal I wasn't. They took a direct hit. Only the AC and navigator were released. From their reports we know everyone got out of the aircraft. But my friend, A1C Chuck Bebus, age 19, did not come back. There has been no word since 18 December 1972. He is still there. He could still be alive. He could have spent the last ten years as a POW. 🛭

F you have a personal adventure for "It Happened to Me" or "I Was There," triple-space type it and send it to SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, Attn: M.L. Jones. All stories should be 500 words or less. Upon publication, SOF will become owner of all publication rights. Submitted articles are subject to editing and revision, although their content and theme will not be changed.

Photos (with captions and credits) are also helpful. Captions should be typed on a separate sheet of paper and keyed to each photograph.

Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope so we can notify you of acceptance or return your story. Article payment is \$50, upon publication. All entrants will receive an SOF patch.







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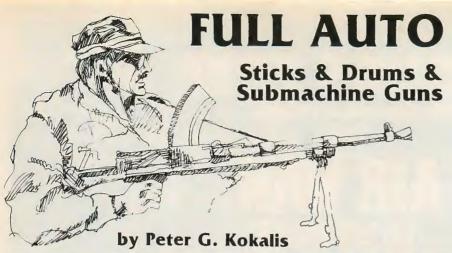


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SUBMACHINE-GUN magazines are basically of two types: the drum or box (often called a "stick") configurations. Oddly enough, the world's first successful submachine gun (the Italian Villar Perosa was the first actual weapon in this class), the MP 18,I, carried a magazine which, in a way, combined features of both. The WWI German Bergmann MP 18,I, designed by Hugo Schmeisser, made use of the 32-round snail drum originally designed for the long-barreled artillery Luger pistol. The bottom portion of this magazine was a drum that led up to a straight-line box type intended for insertion into the Luger's grip-magazine well.

Two notable submachine-gun series have made extensive use of drum magazines. The Thompson is, of course, the best known in this country. Both 50-round and 100-round magazines were available for the Thompson SMG. Only several thousand Type C (100-round) drums were manufactured. It is easy to see why. Fully loaded and attached to the weapon, the entire system weighs close to 20 pounds — heavier than a BAR! Awkward to hold and fire, impossible to sling-carry and easy to damage, the 100-round Thompson drum had no viable military application.

The Type L (50-round) Thompson drum is far more convenient to use and

Foreground: left to right, 20-rd. and 30-rd. box magazines, 50-rd, drum and 1921/28 overstamp .45 ACP Thompson SMG with 100-rd. drum. Background: 9mm Makarov PPSh 41 Soviet SMG with 71-rd. drum and 35-rd. box magazine to the left (author's collection). Photo: Peter G, Kokalis

carry. The Americans and British used them in large quantities with the M1928 Thompson early on in WWII. Cartridges can be inserted into its spiral tracks and the Thompson drum left unwound until just before use — wind the spring 13 to 15 clicks for the Type C and nine to 11 clicks for the Type L.

If properly maintained, kept clean and free of dents, and correctly loaded and wound, both Thompson drums work fine. The only Thompson drums which should be avoided are those made by the Crosby Company during WWII. They can be readily recognized by their black-painted finish and crudely made rotors. Most complaints concerning Thompson drums stemmed from experiences with the Crosby Company's product.

Inserting a Thompson drum is a relatively slow process, as the bolt must be rearward and the magazine latch depressed while the drum is carefully inserted horizontally so that its ribs slide into the front and rear grooves of the magazine well, which is not designed for

the rapid insertion of even box magazines.

The Finnish Suomi SMG begot the Soviet PPD 1934/38, which begot the PPD 1940, which in turn begot the PPSh 41 submachine gun, of which more than five million were produced within the Soviet Union at various arsenals. The PPSh 41 was used to produce the greatest concentration of submachine-gun firepower in the history of warfare. The Shpagin's salient characteristics are its overall rough appearance, wooden stock, ventilated barrel jacket/muzzle brake and 71-round drum (also a direct derivative from the Suomi's drum magazine).

The PPSh 41's drum spring must first be wound (two complete turns — eight clicks) before the cartridges are loaded. The most persistent criticism of drum magazines is that they are fragile and easily damaged. Yet I have a PPSh 41 drum from the Nam that was field-repaired by brass brazing and whose all-important spring-cover plate is missing. This necessitates loading after the spring has been wound and held under continual tension with pliers. A cumbersome procedure, but the damn thing still works.

Drum magazines are commonly faulted for slowness and difficulty in loading. Have you ever attempted to load a dozen or so sticks for the MP 40, Sten, Beretta or Uzi out in the field without the proper loading tool? It's not a pleasant task.

While usually slower loading and somewhat more prone to damage under field conditions, drums do increase the weapon's firepower. They have faded from use for two specific reasons: They are bulky, making it inconvenient to carry spares, and, most important, they require great care in manufacture and thus are expensive to produce.

No current, state-of-the-art submachine gun will accept drum magazines. Box magazines hold sway because they are usually more reliable, convenient to carry in pouches as spares and far less expensive to manufacture.

The first type of staggered two-column box magazine to become prevalent was the single-position feed variety. This type can be seen on the British Sten, German MP 40, U.S. M3A1 "grease gun," Danish Madsen M50, French MAT 49 and the MAC 10. It is difficult to load and subject to frequent malfunction.

Most modern submachine guns accommodate the two-position feed box magazine first introduced with the Thompson. It is slightly easier to load by hand, requires less bolt energy to strip a round out of the magazine, aids in the feeding process and offers far greater reliability. Two-position feed box magazines are found on the Beretta submachine guns, the Uzi, S&W M 76, Sterling, Czech ZK 467 and Models 24 and 25, Walther MPL, Australian Owen, H&K MP5 and the Swedish K. The two-position feed stick will continue to dominate submachinegun magazines well into the foreseeable future. 🕉

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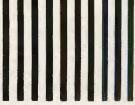
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CAPTURED RUSSIAN TELLS OF CHEM/BIO WARFARE ...

A Soviet soldier, captured by Afghan Freedom Fighters, said three types of chemical and biological warfare agents were used against the Afghan resistance in the northern part of the country. Anatoly Mikhailovich Sakharov, a 19-year-old conscript from Saransk, told journalists that canisters and rockets were stockpiled in bunkers at Kabul and Kunduz airports. Sakharov saw the weapons, and saw Soviet soldiers affected by the chemical agents. The first two agents described by Sakharov produced a yellow cloud and caused "20to 30-percent casualties" by asphyxiation. One was called "picrine," which may be picric acid.

Sakharov called the third agent "smirch" — 100-percent fatal. It left victims with blackened flesh and atrophied limbs.

The metal canisters were blue and marked with the words gaz propan (propane gas, a misleading identification). All three agents, when deployed from fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters, formed a vapor, but were stored in liquid form. The agents were used primarily on the main highway between Afghanistan and Russia.

The Afghan rebels need your help. Send donations to the Afghan Freedom Fighter Fund, P.O. Box 693, Boul-

der, CO 80306.

DEATH CAMP

Robert V. Larson had a recurring nightmare about his experiences at Cabanatuan Prison Camp where he was held captive by the Japanese in the Philippines in 1942. His doctor advised him to "get it on paper and out of your system" — sort of a "literary exorcism." The result was one of the best-written articles printed in SOF: "The Judas Tree," which appeared in our July '81 issue.

As Larson wrote, one name kept coming to him — McCorkle, Derring McCorkle, from Anding, Miss. Larson was there when McCorkle died, and was part of the burial party. McCorkle was laid to rest in a shallow grave, with Japanese guards present. Larson read a prayer over the grave.

Larson recalled McCorkle's last words: "Don't run out in the road, sister, a truck might hit you." He felt McCorkle's sister should know how her brother died, and that his last words were concerned with her safety. He contacted Harold Stalnaker, commander of the Mississippi branch of American Ex-POWs. After an exhaustive search, Stalnaker found Lurline Melton of Leland, Miss. Thirtynine years later, Derring McCorkle's sister finally found out how her brother died, and his last words of concern

BULLETIN

by Bob Poos



Civilization comes to western Laos. Muong villagers look at their family portrait snapped moments earlier by member of SOF party. Things have not changed in remote Asia: Winning "hearts and minds" or obtaining a bit of info often involves doing something relatively simple — or in this case wondrous. Photo: Tom Reisinger

for her. Melton is now 52, and a widow with two grown sons. She was only 13 when her brother died at Cabanatuan.

"It gives me a sense of peace," said Melton. "Our family never knew how Derring died, that he was given a Christian burial, and that he evidently didn't have to endure torture. I thank God for that, and Bob Larson and Harold Stalnaker." And SOF thanks Robert Larson for writing the story.

BEHIND FOREIGN BARS? ...

Got a buddy in jail or in trouble overseas? Busted abroad? The Citizens Emergency Center of the Bureau of Consular Affairs provides emergency services pertaining to the protection of Americans arrested or detained abroad, the search for American citizens overseas and the transmission of emergency messages to those citizens or their next of kin in the United States. Assistance at the Citizens Emergency Center is available Monday through Friday from 0815 to 2200, at this phone number: (202) 632-5225. An emergency duty officer is available at night and on holidays as well.

HIS MARINE'S BEEN HERE BEFORE . . .

At least one of the Marines who hit the beach as part of the peace-keeping force in Lebanon is an old Lebanon hand. He is Warrant Officer Robert Lambert, 46, who recalls one other evacuation — as an evacuee — and one other landing, as part of the landing force.

During the first incident, the roles of Americans and PLO were reversed. Lambert was in Beirut when the PLO furnished security for the flight of 270 Americans and other foreigners in June 1976, shortly after U.S. Ambassador Francis Meloy and another American Embassy official were slain by members of a Lebanese communist militia.

"They protected us then," said Lambert, "and we're protecting them now. I think it's great."

In 1958, Lambert was among the 13,000 leathernecks who waded ashore at Beirut when Lebanese President Camille Chamoun pleaded for U.S. help against Lebanese Moslem forces seeking to overthrow his government. At that time, Beirut was a gleaming Mediterranean resort city

with lovely white-sand beaches and statuesque skyline.

Lambert, looking at the bombedout buildings and harbor littered with sunken ships, said dryly: "The skyline has changed since then."

PEACETIME POWS ...

As a result of the hostage crisis in Iran, the Veterans' Administration has expanded its definition of a prisoner of war by adopting a ruling which will allow for disability claims by American servicemen during peacetime — such as the Marine embassy guards held hostage in Teheran. The ruling makes it possible to be a "POW" during peacetime, if a foreign country forcibly detains servicemen to further their anti-American objectives.

The new ruling will honor claims for actions dating back as far as the capture of the USS Pueblo by North Korea in 1969. Claims can be filed if a serviceman's imprisonment was "comparable to the circumstances under which service persons have generally been forcibly detained or interned by enemy governments during periods of war."

A MERICAN MERCS IN FALKLANDS?

The British Ministry of Defense has denied reports that American mercenaries may have fought with Argentine forces during the United Kingdom's war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands. A British spokesman said it is more likely that the alleged mercs were Anglo-Argentines with American accents and quite possibly Argentine servicemen who had been trained by the United States.

The Ministry spokesman said: "It just doesn't hold up. We have no knowledge of any such incident as reported." Reports in English media had quoted British servicemen as saying they were convinced that at least two captured Argentine snipers spoke with "unmistakable American accents."

The Defense Ministry spokesman said it was more likely the prisoners were from a crack Argentine unit called Specialist 601 which had been trained by Americans. "There were people like that among the prisoners taken," he said.

LLEGAL SPY GEAR SEIZED ...

U.S. agents recently seized \$70,000 worth of militarily useful photographic gear bound for illegal return to the Soviet Union after being modernized in the United States. A spokesman for the Department of Commerce said the equipment, a computerized image-processing system which can

enhance and interpret photo images taken from reconnaissance aircraft and satellites, was originally exported from America to Great Britain. It was then exported from England to Russia in violation of U.S. law.

The Russians, after using the equipment for some time, returned it last year through Britain for upgrading and modification. The Commerce Dept. spokesman said the American manufacturer, Comtal-3M of Pasadena, Calif., was under the impression that it was involved only in a routine transaction between itself and a subsidiary of Vickers, Ltd., in the United Kingdom.

APAN'S NUCLEAR STRATEGY ...

Bleeding hearts in this country picket annually at the anniversaries of American atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They seem to ignore, forget or not care about several things. These include the fact that with the bomb, World War II was probably shortened by perhaps a year; an estimated one million American lives were saved in the process and probably three or four times that many Japanese. Also ignored is the fact that the Soviet Union, which entered the Pacific war in its closing days, probably would have launched a sudden attack on the Japanese, flattening all their cities and killing a majority of them, had it not been for the American action.

But there is one more item: Japanese scientists were working every bit as hard as Americans toward development of atomic warfare. Had they succeeded, the Imperial Japanese forces would have, without hesitation, flattened every U.S. city they could reach. But they failed largely because a German submarine carrying two tons of uranium to Japan was sunk by Allied naval forces.

The project's director, Toranosuka Kawashima, 83, a retired colonel in the Imperial Army, said recently he was summoned by Prime Minister Hideki Tojo in January 1943, questioned about nuclear weapons and ordered to develop them for Japan.

Tojo was operating on information furnished by a Spanish spy ring that America was already working on such a project. "The prime minister commented that the war might be decided by atomic bombs," said Kawashima.

"[Adolf] Hitler agreed to help, but the U-boat carrying [the] uranium was sunk during its voyage to Japan," he added.

COUP DASHED BY CASH SHORTAGE ...

A plan cooked up between former Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa and British mercenary Raymond Ingram to overthrow the present Ugandan government of Dr. Milton Obote had to be aborted because Binaisa could not raise the cash to hire two C-130 aircraft to transport a mercenary force of between 100 and 500 men to Uganda.

Binaisa fell from power in a coup by supporters of Obote.

According to British sources, Binaisa and Ingram planned to "borrow" some helicopter gunships from Zaire, use them to take Entebbe airport outside Uganda's capital and then fly in the merc force.

Binaisa asked Ingram if he could hire the two Herky birds.

Ingram replied: "Yes, but they are very, very expensive." They proved too expensive. End of plan.

SUPPORT NICARAGUANS ...

Juan Carlos and his group of Freedom Fighters still need your support to fight the communist-backed Sandinistas in Nicaragua. If you have any old boots, fatigues, web gear, medical supplies, etc., send them to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters Relief Fund, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

OARES THANK SOF ...

Mrs. Phyllis Hoare, wife of famous mercenary leader "Mad Mike" Hoare, wrote SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown recently to express her thanks for SOF's efforts in establishing a defense fund for Hoare, who was recently tried and convicted in Pretoria, South Africa, as being the leader of the ill-fated mercenary group which tried to pull off a coup in the Seychelle Islands.

Phyllis wrote: "Mike is at present in the Pretoria Central Prison along with his men. He was refused permission to appeal, so the next step is to petition the Chief Justice. This is now being done, hence the enormous legal expenses.

"Thank you again for the wonderful support SOF Magazine has given us."

Readers who wish to further contribute to the defense fund may do so by sending a check to SOF, specifying its purpose.

CORRECTION ..

In Bulletin Board (SOF, October '82, p. 80), the reference to the First Bn., 502nd Infantry: The parent division should have been 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and not 82nd Airborne Division, as stated.

Continued on page 90

ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

by John Metzger



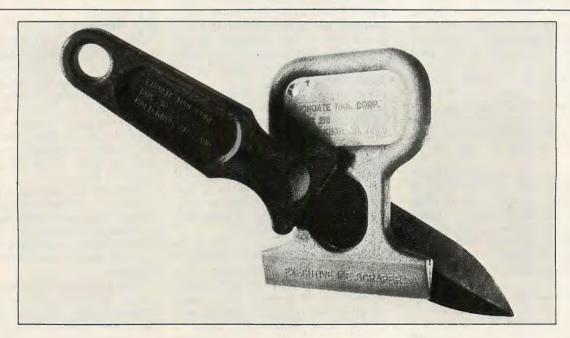
SNIPER RIFLE FOR SALE ...

Valmet, the Finnish arms manufacturer, now offers another weapon that's right up our readers' alley. This wicked-looking sniper rifle is designated the M78/83S and will be imported by *Odin International*, *Ltd.* Similar in operation and appearance to the well-built Soviet Dragunov sniping rifle in 7.62x54mm

Rimmed, the gas-operated M78/83S is in 7.62mm NATO with Kalashnikov-style action. Features include standard Leatherwood ranging telescope, 24-inch barrel with bipod (not shown) and 20-round magazine.

The gun is now available — in very limited quantity — for the first time in the United States for a retail price of

\$1,795. The weapon should appeal to collectors and law-enforcement personnel involved in SWAT-team operations. Look for an in-depth report on the M78/83S in a future issue of SOF. Dealer inquiries and interested buyers should contact *Odin International*, *Ltd.*, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1061, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: (703) 339-8005.



NEW KNIFE IDEA ...

Choate Tool Corp. has an idea that has altered the inherent design of one of our oldest and most conventional weapons: the knife.

Called "The Stinger," this knife is a 7¾-inch piece of machined polyglass-filled nylon, resembling A.G. Russell's "Sting" survival knife — "only bigger, longer and more durable," says Garth Choate. "And it works just as well on any flesh."

SOFers who attended the 1981 convention in Arizona will remember

Garth's "letter opener." The Stinger employs the same concept, but the difference in physical design makes the Stinger the better weapon of the two. Positive grip and sharp, well-balanced double-edge blade allows for efficient thrust-and-parry action, and it's very concealable. Don't let the plastic construction scare you off: The blade — although not suitable for everyday knife-as-a-tool use — is very strong, and, according to Choate, can be hammered through ¼-inch plywood with no damage. And the price? Six dollars.

Also available from Choate is the "executive ice scraper," which, when held, feels like an exotic martial arts "training device." Garth has nicknamed the scraper the "20 Stitches (per hit)." It's guaranteed to ward off muggers while scraping the ice off your windshield. It sells for five dollars. Both scraper and Stinger come in black, OD or blue. For ordering and information, contact Choate Tool Corp., Dept. SOF, Box 218, Bald Knob, AR 72010. Phone: (501) 724-6193.%

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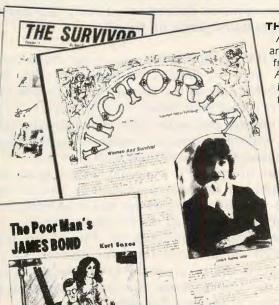
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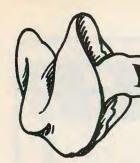
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EDITORIAL



You will be forsaken by a friend

by Dr. E.J. Feulner, Jr.

POR conservatives a handful of foreign policy issues mark the measure of a President: U.S. relations with China stand near the top.

The so-called experts in the State Department say that the "China issue" is too complex for the ordinary man to understand, and therefore, we must leave it to the tender, loving care of the professional diplomats. To the contrary, it seems to me the issues are clear and simple:

1. STRATEGIC — State Department Chinahands argue that we must expand our relationship with the mainland so Communist China does not get back together with the Soviet Union. That's baloney! The People's Republic of China (PRC) and Russia will come back together if they think it is in their interest to do so. To argue that we have sufficient leverage over the Red Chinese to push them one way or the other both exaggerates our own importance and insults the Chinese. Peking has its own foreign policy agenda; no matter what the enlightened pros at Foggy Bottom might think, the PRC agenda will not be set by Washington.

The other side of the strategic coin is the vital geographic importance of Taiwan. This "unsinkable aircraft carrier" of the western Pacific is even more important now that the Soviet presence in the northern Pacific has greatly expanded.

- 2. ECONOMIC We've been hearing about the potential of the China market for almost 100 years now, and yet it's still just potential. On the other hand, our trade with Taiwan now stands at \$13 billion a year, making the Republic of China our sixth largest trading partner with twice the volume of trade we have with the mainland.
- 3. A SIGNAL TO OTHER COUNTRIES—Some of our Western European allies are pushing us to upgrade our relations with the mainland. Yet, these same allies are against us on the Soviet gas pipeline, not willing to bear their fair share of the NATO burden and are contributing to our economic problems by dumping cheap steel and other subsidized goods on our shores.

There are other allies to think about too. Imagine you are the president of South Korea, or a private investor in Hong Kong. China is already making noises about these countries. Will Washington cave in again?

4. HUMAN RIGHTS — Taiwan is moving toward democracy. Genuine elections have been taking place at the local and provincial level. On the mainland, ballet dancers, a musician, a physi-

cist, two diplomats and, most recently, a tennis star have sought asylum — much to the embarrassment of mainland authorities. Freedom on the mainland exists only for the party elite. Taiwan may not be perfect, but it's far ahead on this score.

5. PROMISES, LAWS AND PLEDGES — Vice President George Bush took three letters to Peking earlier this year, in which he indicated that we would be reducing arms sales to Taiwan. A commitment? Not really, simply a demand by the mainland government that we gave in to. But there is a law governing arms sales: the Taiwan Relations Act. It contains no qualifications on future military sales to Taiwan. It is a supposedly legally binding pledge, approved by Congress and signed into law by the President. Now, arbitrarily, without consulting the Congress which overwhelmingly passed the Taiwan Relations Act, the Reagan administration has decided to put both quantitative and qualitative limits on the sales.

HY has Ronald Reagan — our conservative hero — decided to betray an ally, and thumb his nose at the law of the land? The easy answer is that State Department bureaucrats, who have invested their entire careers in expanding relations with the communist mainland, kept pushing and maneuvering, and finally got their way.

That, of course, is a cop-out. Decisions of such monumental importance cannot be and are not made without the knowledge and acquiescence of the White House, and the President himself.

The Republic of China on Taiwan has been America's loyal friend for many decades. To the best of its ability, given the circumstances, it has paid the United States the high compliment of modeling its society after ours.

It was betrayed and kicked around by an earlier president. But we never expected this from Ronald Reagan, to whom we looked as President to hold the banner of conservative principle just as high as when he was Ronald Reagan, citizen, or Ronald Reagan, candidate.

Our friends on Taiwan, and the President's conservative supporters, expected and deserved better than this. We hope the President will reconsider.

This guest editorial is written by Edwin J. Feulner Jr., Ph.D., president of The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank in Washington, D.C. Dr. Feulner was in Taiwan at the time of the White House announcement on Taiwan arms sales, and SOF felt that his response would be of interest to our readers.

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The Liberator That Never Was

CIA'S DEER GUN

Text & Photos by Sgt. Gary Paul Johnston

Boxed CIA Deer Gun with three rounds of ammo and cartoon-illustrated instruction sheet.



Deer Gun cocked, with safety ring in place.



N an effort to arm "friendlies" in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, the CIA undertook the design and production of an updated version of the famous OSS "Liberator" pistol of WWII. Nearly 1,000,000 of the .45 caliber single-shot Liberators were made in 1942 and dropped behind enemy lines. With these pistols, underground forces eliminated many of the enemy and then took and used their weapons, discarding the Liberator. The more recent CIA update followed the same concept, but that the newer gun was an improvement over the Liberator is questionable.

Called the "Deer Gun," the new pistol, like its predecessor, was a single-shot, but was chambered for the 9mm Parabellum. The Deer Gun's steel barrel unscrewed from an insert in its castaluminum receiver for loading after it was made safe. To do this, the cocking knob was pulled to the rear until cocked, and a plastic safety device was snapped

around the shaft to prevent its going forward. It would seem, however, that this device could have easily come off in one's pocket, resulting in an accidental discharge, since the Deer Gun lacked a trigger guard.

The Deer Gun measured 5 inches long, 4-1/8 inches high, had a 1-7/8-inch barrel and weighed approximately 12 ounces. The pistol had no sights and, except for the blued barrel, a bright aluminum finish, making it highly visible.

The pistol had a hollow grip where a few spare rounds of ammunition could be carried and a rubber plug, or cap, which fit into the butt and held an ejector rod. Each pistol came in a white polystyrene box with three rounds of ammunition and an elaborate color-cartoon visual-instruction sheet. There were no markings whatsoever on the pistol, and no writing on the box or ammunition. Neither the manufacturer nor the significance of the name of the weapon

Deer Gun disassembled with grip cap holding ejector rod.

CIA's Deer Gun and universal instruction sheet. Enemy being shot wears arm band bearing Soviet hammer-and-sickle emblem.



is known, but Deer Gun was probably a cover name.

One may wonder about the reason for such secrecy in matters like this. Why not stamp "Made in U.S.A." on the gun in block letters to let the enemy know who is killing him? In this case, the CIA had written nothing, and although thousands of Deer Guns are reported to have been made, none ever reached Vietnam. A high political decision could have been the reason, and probably was. After all, the Deer Gun was made around 1964, and L.B.J. was President. Rumor has it that most Deer Guns were destroyed. This will remain to be seen.

There is only one marking found on the Deer Gun package, and that is on the instruction sheet. The sheet depicts an enemy soldier being shot with a Deer Gun. On his sleeve is an arm band, bearing the Soviet hammer and sickle.

LONG LIVE BLACK BART

'Nam's Not-so-crazy Fighting Credo

THE right seater is flying the Huey.

The aircraft commander, John, is leaning back in his seat, his left leg up over the instrument panel. He is relaxed, thinking: "If I get to be a crusty old fucker someday, I'll remember this moment. We're 10 minutes out of Bad Guy Valley and I'm contemplating death. Maybe Black Bart was right."

When he had arrived at the unit he had to take the only available room — Black Bart's. Bart had tried two days earlier to extract a Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) team in contact and Caught a .50-caliber round in the face. Black Bart's room was, in fact, black inside.

Text & Photos by William D. Watson

Door gunner of Huey (HU-1D) troop carrier fires M60 prior to landing troops in contested area of Vietnam.

the wall that really bothered John. On the wall across from the bed, in block letters, was written: EVERYBODY DIES — ON A UNIVERSAL SCALE THE TIME IS ONLY A MINOR VARI-ABLE.

The letters looked white during the day but glowed green at night. When he couldn't sleep and stared at the letters, they seemed to grow to billboard size.

But he was used to the room now, and after six months was even beginning to think maybe Black Bart was right. Ten minutes or 10 years; it's all the same. He was 10 minutes out of a landing zone (LZ) with intelligence of heavy AA potential. He had seen many people hurt and dying by now and the world still turned around.

John scanned the instruments, then looked out toward the horizon. At 5,000 feet he was bathed in crystalline blue. The air was fresh, cool and clean. The ground, through the inversion haze layer, was a soft green carpet. He watched a sleek Cobra gunship close in with the troop-carrying Hueys. He looked over his right shoulder to check the onboard troops. Regular Vietnamese infantry — not very aggressive.

The hand got him when he turned back forward. It grabbed his jaw and throat like a vise so he could not turn further to the left than center. But through peripheral vision, he could see an arm extending inside the pilot's sliding window. It came in from what should have been empty space at a mile up. He let out an uncontrollable shriek. Then, just as suddenly as it got him, it released its hold. Still cringing, he turned quickly left.

The broad smiling face of the crewchief, Bob, filled the side window. He had traveled precariously on the left skid outside the aircraft to the nose. He was still hooked into the intercom system by a long cord and hand-held mike key: "Betcha I scared you, ha ha."

John's emotions jumped from fear to anger: "Jesus Christ, Bob, what the hell do you think you're doing? We're five minutes out of a goddamn LZ on top of a whole fucking NVA headquarters and you're up here scaring the shit out of me! Get your goddamn ass back behind your goddamn machine gun and stay there!"

The crewchief stopped smiling, arched an eyebrow, shrugged his shoulders and started to move aft. As he did, he lost the grip of his left hand. His right held only the mike key. The slipstream caught him, he lost his balance and started to fall. John quickly reached through the window but was stopped by his safety straps and only just touched the front of Bob's flightsuit. John looked into his eyes as he fell away. He was gone.

"Oh Christ! oh shit! oh no!" John screamed at the top of his lungs. Adren-



Studies and Observation Group (SOG) Hueys (HU-1D) await mission assignment in Dak To, Republic of Vietnam, 1970.

Warrant Officer Terry Crump of 361st Escort Company, U.S. Army, stands beside his shrapnel-riddled Cobra gunship after taking a hit while flying over southern Laos in 1971. Impact blew his feet off steering pedals.



aline pumped now and his eyes watered over. He pounded his knee in frustration, trying to decide what to do. But he knew there was nothing he could do.

"Chock Two, this is Chock Four, over."

"Go ahead," said John. He knew they were going to ask if he knew that someone had fallen.

"OK, this is Four. Did you know that your Charlie Echo [crewchief] is hanging outside in a monkey strap?"

John didn't answer. He popped his belts, rolled in his seat and stuck his head out the side window. There Bob was, tethered by a cargo strap and harness, swinging about five feet below the skids, grinning up.

He still had the mike key in his hand: "Betcha 1 scared you, ha ha."

John's grief turned instantly to disbelief, relief and then rage. He started his

tirade without first turning his switch back to intercom after talking with Chock Four. He was still on transmit: "All right now, goddamnit, Bob, that's just about enough of this shit! I can't take any more. It was funny when you welded my helmet strap snaps, and it was even OK when you cut the bottom out of my hammock and I jumped in and fell on my ass at Dak To, but this shit is too much!" He stopped to catch his breath.

The radio snapped: "This is Dragon Six." It was the battalion commander in the command-and-control ship, a fanatic on radio discipline, who was now enraged. "There is entirely too much bull-shit on this frequency. The next individual who uses this push for a non-mission-essential transmission will get disciplinary action."

"Dragon Six, this is Cobra Lead.

24 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE JANUARY/83



We're at the insertion point inbound, over."

"Roger that, the arty prep is finished. It's all yours."

The gunships reconned the LZ. "Blue Lead, this is Cobra Lead. The LZ is an open area in the valley that should fit V's of three. No obstructions, but we have a grass fire from the arty. Bring in the flight from the north. We have re-

CHOPPER PILOT

Chief Warrant Officer-4 William C. Watson was a fresh-faced 20-year-old chopper pilot when he was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam in 1970. Shortly after he arrived, several missions served to furnish the essence of this story, his first published article. Watson currently is stationed as an instructor-pilot at the Army Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, Ala. He has served tours in Korea and Germany as well as Vietnam.

Watson says that this vignette strives to illustrate the attitude and rationalizations of young soldier/fliers merely trying to get their missions completed. He is donating the author's fee from this article to the Army Aviation Center Museum Foundation at Fort Rucker in the name of Capt. Mike O'Donnell, KIA in Laos while flying a SOG mission in March 1970. Anyone who wishes to make a donation can send it to Army Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box H, Fort Rucker, AL 36362.

—Bill Guthrie

ceived negative enemy fire at this time, over."

Bob was back at his gun again and John took a final look around before taking the controls. The Vietnamese troops were all looking back at him the way a guy from Butte, Mont., looks at a New York City cab driver when he thinks he is going the long way around.

As they descended through the layers of altitude, the temperature, humidity and smell of Vietnam returned. It reminded John of jumping into a sewage ditch.

The flight turned final. The adrenaline began to run. The Cobras pulled in alongside. Short final — in over the trees — into the smoke and burning grass to shut off the daylight and choke the crew — no fire yet — maybe it's a cold one — at two feet and still on the go, John felt the shifting center of gravity as the troops jumped from the skids.

"Cobra Lead, Blue flight is coming out."

Bob keyed the intercom: "We got one that won't go; he's hanging on the troop seat."

"Kick the bastard off, now," John shouted.

Bob looked down at the pleading face of the Vietnamese soldier, then put his boot across the soldier's chest and pushed. The man's hands broke free and he tumbled off backward still clutching at the helicopter. By this time they were 10 feet in climb.

Up and over the tree line — and then they popped out of the smoke and darkness. John sighed with relief — a cold one. All that lay ahead now was a climb to altitude and safety.

As they passed 1,000 feet, Bob keyed the intercom and paused before he spoke. "I know why that guy didn't want to get off." He looked at a ragged hole through the helicopter floor. It was smeared with blood where the soldier had been sitting. "He was shot in the ass."

John concentrated on maintaining formation. "Damn it, Bob, if this is some more of your humor I'll cut your water off. That place was colder than a witch's tit." He had the co-pilot take the controls, then turned around to see Bob pointing at the spot.

"No, sir, I ain't kidding 'bout this one. He took a round through the belly. It wasn't cold for him."

John turned back, slid down, put his left foot over the instrument panel in his relaxing position and began to think. "OK, I feel bad about it. OK, but I didn't shoot the guy and I didn't know he was hurt. Maybe Black Bart is right - that lone bullet could have gone between my eyes instead of between his buns — a minor variable. We all took the same risks and he may end up checking out a few years earlier than me. Hell, the bastard might be evacked, and not die from shock, blood loss or infection from their scumbag hospitals. Hell, he might outlive me. I've still got to run three more assaults this afternoon."

They leveled out and John's musing was interrupted by a radio transmission. Someone keyed the mike and very slowly and distinctly said: "Give me liberty or give me death."

Almost immediately, a booming voice from the C&C ship shouted: "This is Dragon Six. OK, you smart ass. I told you I'd have the nuts of the next person who used this freq for bullshit. I just hope one of you has balls enough to tell me who said that!"

John hesitated for a second, then keyed his mike: "I don't know for sure, sir, but I think it was Patrick Henry." John was glad he was the one who'd capped off the sucker bait to old "Asshole Six." He turned to share his enjoyment with Bob. Bob was gone.

"OK, you son-of-a-bitch, I know you can hear me. I've had about enough of this shit! Where did you get that goddamn monkey strap anyway — as soon as we get down I'm taking the goddamn thing away! If you don't get behind your goddamn gun right now I'm not going to sneak you into the goddamn officers' club anymore to see the goddamn go-go dancer! And I'll tell you another thing if you don't!!"

John was facing the cargo area, still yelling over the intercom. But when he turned around he would find a smiling upside-down face at the top of the windshield.

Long live Black Bart — in whatever universe he now inhabits. Maybe he was right. 突



The Life and Times of Hilaire du Berrier

Hilaire du Berrier, in Djibouti, "The Territory of the Afars and Issas," wears the Arab headdress and Agal he acquired for a job with the Imam of Yeman in 1936.

GENTLEMAN OF FORTUNE

by Jim Graves

Photos Courtesy of du Berrier Family Collection

N 6 April 1943, Ichiyi Sato of the Kempetai, Japan's secret police, noted a new name on the list of prisoners being held for interrogation in the formerly British Union Jack Club building in Shanghai.

The man's name was Hilaire du Berrier. While he had a French name, he had been born in America and held an American passport. Japan was at war with the United States and the xenophobic Japanese assumed all Americans in China were spies.

Count Vladimir Tatistcheff, one of the numerous White Russian exiles who made a living in Shanghai as Kempetai informers, had cast suspicion upon du Berrier by telling half-true tales of the American's past.

Du Berrier had fought for Haile Selassie against Mussolini's Black Shirts in 1936, Count Tatistcheff declared. He had traveled in Djibouti, Egypt, Turkey, Greece and Romania. He had fought for the Republicans in Spain. He had been in Vietnam in 1937, in Hong Kong in 1938 with the notorious English soldier of fortune, One-Armed Sutton, and made a mysterious trip to Borneo in 1939. He spoke French, Ethiopian, Arabic and Chinese as well as he spoke English, and he understood Spanish and Greek. He must be a senior American intelligence agent.

For Sato and the Kempetai it was more than enough. Du Berrier would go upstairs to the interrogation room.

Sato's suspects, seven of them, were held in a walled-up cigarette stand on the first floor of the British servicemen's club. When the Kempetai wanted to talk things over, a guard would bellow out an unintelligible name. While the prisoners consulted on whose turn it was to go upstairs, the impatient Kempetai guards waited.

If too much time passed before a prisoner emerged from the crawlway that had been created by nailing shut the top half of a dutch door, he would be kicked savagely by the waiting guards.

Upstairs it was more brutal. Sato's Kempetai toughs were not above using hands and fists on prisoners whose answers did not please them — regardless of whether the answers were true or not — but the standard routines consisted of periodic beatings with a metaltipped stick, the rack and a variation of the water torture. The Japs preferred to pour water into a funnel that deposited the water onto a soaked towel covering the prisoner's mouth and nostrils. The sensation of drowning was quite realistic.

After one particularly cruel session, du Berrier was tossed back into his cell. Nearly at the end of his resistance, he lay on the floor crying.

John Cook, an old Englishman and head of an English spy ring in Shanghai, had been upstairs the previous day. One



Du Berrier at age 4 in Flasher, N.D. Behind him is his dog "Count," whom he wouldn't sell to Albert, his dog-stew-loving Indian friend

of the Kempetai had jumped a little too hard and long on Cook and had busted up a few things inside the Englishman.

Holding one arm around his stomach, Cook crawled over to du Berrier and said, "Hey, lad, do you happen to know what day it is?"

Du Berrier, startled out of his despondency, replied, "As near as I can tell, John, it's the 18th of April."

Cook, wincing at the pain it caused, started to laugh and said, "You know, lad, 20 years ago today I was in jail in Russia for the same thing."

Du Berrier burst out laughing. The joke was that men who led lives of adventure had to expect the occasional bit of excitement to be accompanied by danger and terror.

"With a sketchy outline of my past, it was easy for the Japs to make me into a more dangerous catch than Lawrence of Arabia," recalled du Berrier. "Between every trip upstairs I looked back through my life and asked myself how I ended up in a Japanese prison in Shanghai. There was no answer, save that there was a wide world full of danger and adventure and I could not avoid its beckoning."

Hilaire du Berrier began his life of wandering in 1906 as Harold Berry in Flasher, N.D. He was the first white child born in the town founded by his father, who had changed du Berrier into Berry, married a second-generation German girl and moved to the edge of Sioux country to build his fortune.

Young Harold — quickly shortened to Hal against his mother's wishes — grew

up in an atmosphere of sturdy, puritanical townsmen, rough unwashed cowboys and Indians.

Young Hal disliked most cowboys only a little less than he disliked the townsfolk. His real friends were the Indians, veterans of Sitting Bull's war parties that had wiped out Custer's 7th Cavalry at Little Big Horn — such as Lame Walking Cow and Albert Wind-Did-Blow. Hal's father was smart enough to listen to the Indians' stories, and they, in turn, treated the Berry family with respect. Lame Walking Cow had presented Berry with a beaded knife sheath which once held the knife Sitting Bull had used to cut out Custer's heart.

The first sign of spring in Flasher was the arrival of Albert Wind-Did-Blow rumbling into town from the reservation in his lumber wagon, accompanied by his latest squaw or squaws. Albert was reasonably well taken care of — the government paid him \$30 a month to stay on the reservation and off the path that had led to Little Big Horn. But Albert was a gregarious type who liked to wander, and each spring he pestered the Indian agent to let him leave the reservation to visit his white friends in Flasher.

Soon after pitching his teepee in a meadow near town, Albert would appear at the Berry house. Even after Hal's father died in 1912, Albert was welcome to dine at the Berrys'.

Mrs. Berry thought Albert called out of respect for her husband, but the truth was that he liked dogs — in soup, stew or simply roasted. His visits were a signal to young Hal, who soon thereafter would head for Albert's teepee, leading a dog. Hunting dogs, which belonged to the men of the town (who understood what was going on), were not included, but strays were fair game. For each dog he rustled, Albert paid Hal 25 cents, regardless of size, shape, color or breed.

Hal's need for quarters increased

when he made two discoveries at age 12:
1) Esther, the 18-year-old maid recently hired by Mrs. Berry, loved chocolate Mounds® and 2) Esther was willing to assist Hal's growing-up process — provided he could supply the chocolate.

It was perfect that spring and summer of 1918 as Hal led dog after dog to Albert's teepee, received his money and dashed for the confectionary. Albert and his squaws were well-fed, Hal had money and Esther had her chocolate Mounds. The few stray dogs left on Flasher's streets were nervous.

As summer turned to autumn, Hal continued in ignorant bliss. Even though his source of money had returned to the reservation, Esther had begun to enjoy the relationship and was willing to continue sans Mounds[®]. At some point, however, Mrs. Berry had become suspicious. One winter afternoon she returned early and surprised Hal and Esther in bed together. Hal cried as Esther was sent packing that night in the middle of a snowstorm.

Hal was sent off to the Pillsbury Academy, a boys' military school in Owatonna, Minn., for a little discipline. Four years later, just one month before he was due to graduate, Hal was expelled by the headmaster, Dr. Milo B. Price. Price's parting comment was, "Berry, you are the most worthless student I have expelled from this school since I expelled Harry Williams 15 years ago." A long time later, Hal Berry learned that Harry Williams had written "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary." It's doubtful that accomplishment would have changed Price's opinion of Williams even had he known.

To escape North Dakota, Hal talked his mother into sending him to art school in Chicago. It was here that he had the opportunity through Ed Heath's Flying School to take up flying, an obsession of his since early childhood. This obsession was the first step on the path that led him to the upstairs interrogation room in Shanghai.

Heath had a clipped-wing biplane with a World War I surplus OX-5 motor in which he allowed Walt Meyer, Harold Van Teffel and Hal Berry to barnstorm. Passengers paid \$5 a ride, but the real money came from stunts. Berry was paid \$20 for free-fall parachuting into fairgrounds; thrilling in those days, since the parachutist went up in the back seat of the plane, crawled out over the wing's trailing edge, lowered himself into a swing attached to a large sock that contained the parachute and then waited until the pilot picked up sufficient speed, at which time he untied a knot that cut him, and hopefully the parachute, away.

Van Teffel and Berry made even more money doing loops. The Jonsunite High Test Gasoline and Motor Oil Company paid the two daredevils \$50 for every loop they made with Berry sitting



ABOVE: Du Berrier and an unknown fan at a fairground in Illinois or Wisconsin during his barnstorming days, 1928-1931. BELOW: Rope leader in du Berrier's hands was used in a stunt. Du Berrier would switch planes in midair, climbing the rope ladder, trailed from the bottom wing of the lead plane, after climbing out on the top wing of the chase plane.



28 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE JANUARY/83

on the top wing of the biplane. Berry had a rope attached from his waist to the wing, but actually he didn't need it since he stayed in contact with the wing during the loop by hooking his foot around a wing strut wire on the way up and over, and centrifugal force held him on the wing coming down. Somewhat more tricky was the stunt in which Berry would switch planes in midair, climbing from the top wing of the bottom chase plane via a rope ladder that trailed from the bottom wing of the top lead plane.

By 1931 Berry tired of the barnstorming circuit, so, through his mother, he arranged to accompany his uncle, the United States Commissioner of the French Colonial Exposition, to Paris.

Paris in the early '30s was the place to be during what Berry — now calling himself Hilaire du Berrier since that was more useful in France — called Europe's Indian Summer.

The battles of the Somme and Verdun were far enough in the past that the survivors' tales of World War I sounded wonderful and exciting, not deadly. World War II was still in the murky future and few noticed the events of the early '30s that signaled the coming cataclysm.

The city was filled with haughty French veterans who had won World War I and stopped the Reds in Poland (the French version), American and other foreign adventurers who had helped them in the Lafayette Escadrille or the French Foreign Legion, and White Russians who had fled the revolution of 1918 and spent their time concocting cafe-plots — as fascinating as they were futile — to retrieve Russia from the Bolsheviks.

Paris was an enchanting city for prospectors of stories like du Berrier, who was just another American writer like Ernest Hemingway or Henry Miller feeding on the tales and energy of the city. "A 'writer' was defined loosely in those days," said du Berrier later. "One didn't have to be published, one only had to try."

The city was full of American artists and "artists," writers and "artists," and adventurers and "adventurers." Equipped with top hat, gloves, cane and monocle, and financed with \$50 a month from his mother — his allowance would last only three months, but he intended to join the Foreign Legion when he was cut off — du Berrier plunged into Parisian life.

Du Berrier, a confirmed Francophile and monarchist since the age of nine, when he was given a book on Napoleon's cavalry, loved it.

"Every new day in the Paris of that period was like a free lottery ticket because it might bring anything and was certain to bring something," he said.

"In the Tuileries Gardens, not far from the Orangerie, where one could see

A Miss of the Motor WOULD MEAN DISASTER



That's Why
HAL DU BERRIER
and
HAROLD VAN TEFFEL
Use Only
JONSUNITE True Gasoline
and
HI-DUTY Motor Oil

In Their Sensational Aerial Exploits

Time-torn flyer from the Jonsunite company used to promote barnstorming act of Harold Van Teffel and Hal du Berrier. While du Berrier perched on the top wing, Van Teffel would fly a loop in the Monarch biplane.

Degas' painting of his father listening to a violin, there was a statue of Puss in Boots in a swashbuckling pose with his catch of mice hanging from his belt. Further down, among the trees there were benches, and one of the advantages of being a foreigner in a strange land is that the foreigner can talk to anybody without benefit of introduction. None of the rules apply."

With the rules suspended, du Berrier's collection of friends and acquaintances found on the Tuileries benches and in cafes all over Paris grew to include royalty-in-exile, such as Russia's Grand Duke Dimitri and Prince Felix Youssopoff and Spain's Don Jaime de Bourbon, as well as some fake royalty, like the American Prince Michael Romanoff, a pretender to the Russian throne.

Paris also drew more than its share of powerful women or women who had been close to power. Du Berrier, who always maintained close friendships with the ladies, became acquainted with Marie Barnes, former mistress of Baron de Mumm; Louise Bryant, former mistress of John Reed; Mahjidi Hanoum, a Turkish dancer; and Kiki, an American author and one of the leading characters in Paris. In a foreword to one of her books, Hemingway declared that Kiki had never had a bedroom of her own. She loved it.

Although the people du Berrier had met in the cafes and parks were intriguing, it was a case of paratyphoid (caught from eating in cheap restaurants) and confinement in the American Hospital that changed his life and put him on the road to China.

"Entering the American Hospital was like passing the obstacle to a new rule of Arabic grammar, which is called *el bab*, the gate, because it opens the way to a richer and more spacious hall," said du Berrier.

While there were notables among the staff, including brain surgeon Dr. Thierry de Martel, and among the patients, like artist Earl Kirkham, it was the destitute soldiers and writers about soldiers who fascinated du Berrier.

Across du Berrier's room was an American black known only as Freddie. "He was the sort of person one pictured in some Southern American town, sleeping under a tree when not engaged in just enough menial labor to keep him alive," said du Berrier.

But Freddie left the South, worked his way across the ocean, entered France with neither passport nor birth certificate and joined the Foreign Legion during WWI, long before America entered the war.

"Thus Freddie found himself in 1931 and 1932 doubled up with rheumatism and unable to go home or enter the American Hospital as a charity patient because he hadn't a paper in the world to prove he was American, though two minutes of conversation proved that he couldn't be anything else. An anonymous American read of Freddie's plight in the Paris edition of the *Chicago Tribune* and got him into the hospital.

"When Kirkham tired of listening to stories of soldiers, he would say, 'Freddie, sing us a song.' Doubled up with pain, the former legionnaire would turn his face toward the ceiling and sing in a doleful voice:

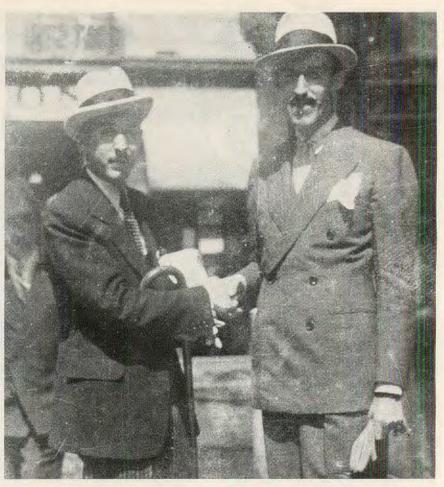
"'Oh, say good-bye to mother. She knows there is no other. Oh, kiss those dear sweet lips of hers and tell her I'm not coming home."

"Freddie put his heart and soul into the only song he knew. I have often wondered who buried him and where, though I should not, for the Legion never forgets its own."

Foremost among American legionnaires was Charles M. Sweeny (see "Sweeny of the Legion," SOF, May '82), who lived with his French wife at 21 Rue Ste-Genevieve at Courbevoie-sur-Seine, between wars — or shows as he called them. His wife was reputed to go home with tears in her eyes everytime a war or revolution started in some far-off place for fear that she would find a note pinned to her pillow announcing her husband's absence.

Born to a wealthy family, Sweeny had fought in the Spanish-American War at 16, was expelled twice from West Point (1901 for demerits, readmitted 1902 and kicked out finally in 1903) and then started an unparalleled career as a soldier of fortune in Latin America (Venezuela, Honduras and Mexico) before going to France near the start of World War I.

When it began, "Sweeny went from cafe to cafe, rounding up young Americans and trying to talk them into joining



Hilaire du Berrier with Don Jaime de Bourbon, third in line of succession to throne of Spain, on Paris street in 1931.

the Foreign Legion with him," said du Berrier. Among those who answered Sweeny's call to the Legion were the poets Allen Seeger and Joyce Kilmer.

Sweeny was wounded six times while serving with the Legion, was the first American commissioned in the Legion and finished as a colonel before he took a one-grade bust when he transferred to America's 80th Division in 1918.

It was through Sweeny that du Berrier came to know Major Granville Pollack, an American pilot from the Lafayette Escadrille; Clifford Harmon, founder of the International League of Aviators for whom the Harmon trophy is named; and Gen. Maxime Weygand, Marshal Foch's Chief of Staff during World War I.

Weygand, feared by politicians and generals alike for his close relationship to Foch, was selected to lead a French military mission sent to assist Poland's Marshal Josef Pilsudski, then being driven back by the Bolsheviks. With

Sweeny commanding a division, Weygand contributed the strategy that reversed the course of the war and defeated the Bolsheviks.

Granville Pollack was the air commander for a squadron that Sweeny organized in 1923 to go to Morocco and fight for the sultan against Abd el Krim. Doc Sparks, a dentist who preferred flying as a soldier of fortune, also participated in that show.

Also in the group of SOFers around Sweeny were Jimmy Bach, an American veteran of the Lafayette Escadrille, who was credited with being the first American to shoot down a German plane during the war; Prince Aage of Denmark, who relinquished his right of succession to the throne to wear the white kepi of the French Foreign Legion; and Vincent Minor Schmidt. Schmidt, an American, was an artilleryman in WWI at 16, piloted Marshall Field III on big-game hunts in Africa during the 1920s and flew for a Chinese warlord in 1931.

Du Berrier and Olaf de Wet — from a long line of high-ranking British officers, de Wet was a former RAF lieutenant invalided out after a crash — sat in cafes in Paris, absorbing the code of ethics for a soldier of fortune from Sweeny and his friends.

"Soldiers of fortune of the Sweeny, Pollack and Schmidt breed had a code that covered everything from mode of dress to dying, and their standards were rigid," said du Berrier. "There could be no greater insult to a soldier of fortune than to call him a mercenary. Mercenaries were human sheep rented out to fight, with no say as to whom they would fight or why.

"The soldier of fortune is a man who chooses the warrior's life for its own sake and, by the code of Sweeny, Pollack and Schmidt, faces the fact that if there were a chance of winning, the side for which he is fighting would not need him, and in any case, is unlikely to pay him in full."

Du Berrier's mother had died in 1935 and left him a small inheritance. Enamored of the life of a soldier of fortune, he decided he would use the money to finance a trip to Ethiopia, where war with Italy loomed on the horizon.

Benito Mussolini was looking around Africa for a colony and a place to exhibit the military machine he had built in Italy. Ethiopia, with its wealth of natural resources and strategic location, was his choice; it would also personally satisfy him. When Mussolini was a child, his father had fought in a campaign against the Ethiopians. Captured, he was castrated - a routine fate for all captured Italians in the first Ethiopian war as well as the one about to begin.

In the fall of 1935, du Berrier set sail for Djibouti, a French-controlled port on the Red Sea that had a rail link with Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia — and at the moment a hotbed of rumor and the destination of choice for as wild a collection of spies, adventurers, foreign correspondents and charlatans as one could imagine. "They were the merriest bunch of fighting, spitting, swearing, drinking, bottle-smashing cutthroats a

man could meet," said du Berrier. Haile Selassie, "King of the Kings of Ethiopia, Lion of Judah and the Elect of God," who traced his ancestry all the way back to King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, was desperate for help.

Hilaire du Berrier, drawn by Earl Kirkham in 1932.





Before leaving France, du Berrier had contacted Selassie's envoy in Paris and. upon arrival, went straight to the air minister, Thadessa Mechencha. Du Berrier, soon joined by Schmidt and de Wet, was there to form a squadron using soldiers of fortune as pilots. The problem was a lack of planes as well as spare parts for the few planes the Ethiopians did have. The nations of Europe and America, frightened of Mussolini's military might, refused to ship either planes or parts.

War came on 3 October 1935 when Mussolini sent columns marching toward Addis Ababa from Eritrea and Somalia. Du Berrier and his friends joined the crowd in front of Selassie's Grand Guebi Palace where the declaration of war and the Ethiopian draft notice were read - punctuated by periodic rolls from a huge drum.

Selassie's draft notice to his people was all encompassing and obviously composed to prevent any dodging whatsoever. Every man and woman, young or old, was directed to report immediately to the nearest military barracks, bringing with them whatever weapons they owned, whether rifle,

His Majesty Haile Selassie reviews saberswinging tribesmen from his balcony on the Grand Guebi Palace in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1936, Members of Emperor's family are still alive, forgotten by the world and living under atrocious conditions in the dungeons beneath this old palace with its corrugated-tin roof.

saber, spear, hoe or fists. Persons missing arms or legs were not exempted, nor were pregnant women unless birth was imminent, in which case they were exempted until 30 days after the birth.

Columns of barefoot but healthy men were sent forth to die in human-wave attacks against the Italian army, which was equipped with machine guns, tanks and poison gas. Old men and young boys were sent out with ancient rifles to work on the edges of the Ethiopian army columns as snipers. Women cooked and carried.

In what was probably one of the most barbaric campaigns in this century, the Italians smashed all of Selassie's columns and moved relentlessly toward Addis Ababa. The imminent arrival of the Italians caused defections from the ranks of adventurers who had hastened to the capital.

Hubert Fauntleroy Julian, later to gain some fame as the drug- and gunrunning "Black Eagle of Harlem" in Latin America, had turned up in Ethiopia late in the year, but decided he would be better off with the Italians. Although Julian later claimed to have actually flown against the Italians, du Berrier says that was not true.

Benny Arnold, an American journalist, left, as did Count Carl Gustaf von Rosen, soldier of fortune, explorer and humanitarian from Sweden.

Schmidt and de Wet also left. A half-Russian, half-Ethiopian colonel named Babicheff had accused Schmidt, who was American, of being a German/Italian spy. De Wet, "a wonderful person sober, a wild man when drinking," according to du Berrier, got drunk and challenged a Belgian officer to a duel. The Belgian chose sabers. The British ambassador arrested de Wet the night before the scheduled duel and sent him to Dijbouti under armed escort.



Barefoot Ethiopian soldiers being trained in Addis Ababa before they were sent to die in human-wave attacks against Italian 4th, 5th, 9th and 10th Companies of Troop R, Erythian command, advancing from north.

John Robinson, an American Negro from Chicago, nicknamed "The Brown Condor," was one of the few adventurers who stayed, and he stayed forever. Robinson had gotten into a quarrel with Count von Rosen and for slugging him Selassie had Robinson locked up for 30 days.

When he got out Robinson flew a Breguet 19 in combat against the Italians. Coming in for a landing at Addis Ababa, Robinson misjudged his approach speed, the gear folded up and he died in the crash.

"He was a fine fellow and an excellent pilot," said du Berrier. "It was just his time."

By April 1936, one of the few soldiers of fortune still left in Addis Ababa was du Berrier.

Over endless Turkish coffees in cafes, du Berrier listened to the tales of Wehib Pasha, governor of Mecca during World War I, about Enver Bey, Turkey's war minister and leader of the Young Turks. When Turkey lost its war, Enver Bey

There probably is no stranger nor more mysterious a land in which a soldier of fortune could begin his career than in Ethiopia — in 1935 or now.

Located just above the equator, Ethiopia consists of 472,000 square miles of diverse terrain — plateau, desert, jungle and snowcapped mountains — ranging from 6,000 to 10,000 feet in elevation.

It has an even more diverse past.

Very early in the history of civilization, Ethiopia had strong ties with Egypt and at times the two nations were ruled by the same Pharaoh. Ethiopians appear among the allies of Troy in Homer's *Iliad* as Aethopians, and Ethiopia, or at least part of it, appears as Sheba in the Bible.

Many scholars, and the Menelik dynasty of Ethiopia which ruled until 1974, were convinced that the biblical Queen of Sheba, who visited Israel's King Solomon, came from Ethiopia. The Ethiopian version of the story is that the queen was seduced by Solomon and that a son, Menelik, came from the union. One presumes that Solomon was trying to assure his access to the gold mines that are known to us as King Solomon's Mines.

That is why Haile Selassie took the title "King of the Kings of Ethiopia, Lion of Judah and the Elect of God," and claimed descent from King Solomon when he assumed the throne in 1930.

Either during the time of Menelik or later during the Babylonian captivity, a large number of Jews moved into Ethiopia. When European

EXOTIC ETHIOPIA

travelers started moving into what was then called Abyssinia in the 15th century, they found a thriving Jewish tribe called Falasha, which had never heard of the Talmud.

It is also possible that Ophir, mentioned in the Bible, was an area within Ethiopia, or at least an area of the Saudi Arabian peninsula that was Ethiopian-controlled. Ophir was the land from which the Three Wise Men came.

Christianity reached Ethiopia early (330 A.D.); in fact, the Ethiopian Coptic Church is the oldest surviving Christian sect in existence.

The Moslems came in the 7th century; the Portuguese arrived in the 15th century. The Portuguese were expelled in 1633 and the next European to reach Ethiopia was James Bruce of Scotland. Bruce, in search of the source of the Blue Nile, headed into Ethiopia in 1769 from the port of Massawa, in what is today Eritrea.

He emerged from Ethiopia in 1773. During his stay, he saw some strange and wonderful sights, and found the source of the Blue Nile. At one point, he was also forced to serve as a soldier of fortune, leading 70,000 troops, according to his account, in one battle to get cooperation from an Ethiopian king.

Another Bruce story would raise eyebrows even today. Near Adowa (now called Aduwa) Bruce reported:

"I overtook on the way three travel-

ers, who seemed to be soldiers, driving a cow before them. They halted at a brook, threw down the beast and one of them cut a pretty large dollop of flesh from its buttoks, after which they drove the cow gently on."

The 18th-century LRRP-ration story and other incredible tales led to Bruce's public ridicule by his peers. But when his book was published in 1790, the exotic tales made it a great success with the public.

Thirty years after Bruce's death in 1794, another explorer went into Ethiopia with the intention of disproving Bruce's account. Much to his chagrin, not only did he substantiate all of Bruce's tales but he even met Ethiopians who remembered Bruce.

Ethiopia's legacy has not been restricted to exotic tales of wanderers and soldiers of fortune. From former Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie (whose name before he became emperor was Ras Tafari) has come a Jamaican cult, the Rastafarians, who worship Selassie as a god, use marijuana in its ceremonies — and gave us reggae music.

Ethiopia has also given us coffee, both the word and the beverage. The Arabs probably discovered coffee, which they called *qahwah*, but the Turks called it *kahwah* after the village of Kaffa in southwestern Ethiopia where the Arabs discovered it.

An exotic drink from an exotic and historic land where, as Hilaire du Berrier said, "The difference between the possible and the impossible is very thin." by Jim Graves

had joined the White Russians and carved out an empire of his own as Prince of Bokhara, north of what today is Afghanistan. Eventually betrayed, he was killed at Aksu Kuyu in 1922 by a Russian agent.

Some minor tribal chieftains informed du Berrier that the governor of Gojam, in the extreme northwest of the country on the Anglo-Egyptian-Sudan border, had fled toward Egypt. A column of Ethiopian troops led by two Swedish soldiers of fortune and hauling two French 75mm cannon were on the road from Gojam to Addis Ababa to aid Selassie. Du Berrier reasoned they did not know that Selassie had fled Ethiopia for Palestine on 1 May en route to England.

The Italians coming south from Eritreia were bypassing many provinces because they were rushing to beat the bouzou zinab, the rains which would immobilize Ethiopia between May and September.

Du Berrier decided to try to sell some minor chieftains on the idea of meeting the approaching column, turning it around and marching it back to Gojam. He would be the front man — "His Apostolic Majesty, by the grace of God and the will of the People, King of Gojam" — they would be the powers behind the throne. His logic for his enthronement and their subordinate placement was that with a white man as king, they might get a better response from the League of Nations, which had refused to help Selassie.

"Crazy? Certainly it sounds crazy, but at that time and place the line between the possible and the impossible was very thin," said du Berrier. "Badoglio (the Italian general) could not get there before September and, by that time, anything might happen. The League of Nations might really do something effective. Mussolini might collapse. And, if worse came to worst, we could retreat through the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan as former rulers of Gojam and leaders of the last armed resistance.'

Just a few days before the end, du Berrier, in a Model T Ford he had rented from the American minister, went out to the town where he was to meet with some minor chieftains in on the Gojam plot. He found the town abandoned. Not one to let an opportunity like that slip by — and since he knew the Italians would do it if he didn't - du Berrier stripped the town of its treasures.

"Particularly I looted the Coptic church, because of the silver crosses, the incense burners, the robes the priests wore and the carved masks they carried in procession," said du Berrier. "And those holy books written on sheepskin in the language of the Queen of Sheba."

Primitive paintings, gold and silver cups, dishes and tableware — all left by



Old men, deemed too old to merit any other name than shimagelli (old man), were given ancient rifles and trained to fight as snipers against Italians in the war of 1935-36. They didn't survive against Italian light tanks, machine guns and poison gas.

the terrified Ethiopians — were loaded into the Model T. On the way back to Addis Ababa, du Berrier flagged down the train to Djibouti and sent the treasure to himself, care of the Hotel de Europe there. "I knew they never bothered with customs in those days and that it would be waiting for me at the hotel if I could get out."

On 5 May du Berrier set out on the road to Gojam. Addis Ababa by then was full of corpses and shops and homes smashed by the hands of drunken looters.

These black-shirted Italians on motorcycles. in advance guard of the column moving on Addis Ababa, were the ones who captured du Berrier 55 miles out of the city on 5 May 1936. Both Italians and du Berrier were racing to beat the bouzou zinab, the great rains from May to September that turn most of Ethiopia into a morass of mud: Italians to capture Addis Ababa, du Berrier to take over as ruler of Gojam Province.



"We didn't know it, but the Ethiopians in the column had dumped the 75s into a ravine and taken to the hills," said du Berrier. "The Swedish officers had left the country. Fifty-five miles outside of Addis Ababa, we came over a hill and I found myself facing three Black Shirts on motorcycles. Behind them were 1,200 automobiles, most of them American, loaded with Italian officers.

"That's as far as I got toward Gojam. "The first Italian that spoke to me questioned me in French. He asked me if I were French and I replied, 'No, I'm American.' He immediately switched to English and told me his mother was a Schuster from Boston. Scotti was a colonel then but I heard that he later became a general.

"A very good-looking Italian came up then, shook my hand and said, 'I know you. I've seen you in Monte Carlo. I'm Prince San Selice. You were the man that was going to form a squadron.

"We talked for a while before the column started moving again. He thought it (my capture) was a great joke on me."

At the edge of Addis Ababa, the column, with du Berrier riding in the second car as a privileged prisoner, halted so that Italian movie crews could move up and film the triumphant entry. When the Italian column reached the Grand Guebi Palace, "the Italians went crazy, throwing their hats in the air. They had won the war. They made the column go through the same routine three times."

While the Italians were perfecting their delirious act, du Berrier took advantage of the confusion and strolled away. He went first to the American ministry, only to learn the American minister had fled to the British embassy. Du Berrier next went there but, receiving no offers of help, finally approached the French embassy. On 9 May he was smuggled out on a train carrying French troops to Djibouti.

In Djibouti, also called "the territory of the Afars and Issas" after the two

Continued on page 78

SKYRAIDER!

Old, Slow & Deadly

by George C. Morris



THE sun pounded down from a brilliant Asian sky. Below, the thick green jungle stretched endlessly, interrupted only by occasional rice paddies. It was 9 October 1966.

The North Vietnamese pilot scanned the airspace below him. He and the other members of his flight had scrambled 15 minutes earlier to intercept two slow moving bandits near a spot where an American pilot had recently been shot down. Suddenly, he saw them. Skyraiders!

Anticipation of the kill brought a grim smile to his strained features. This would be like shooting fish in a barrel! But he recalled Lt. Nguyen, who had been blasted out of the sky by one of these flying antiques from the U.S. Navy. Resolving to keep above and behind the enemy, he eased his MiG-17 into a dive.

Picking out the nearest A-1H, he tracked it briefly and then opened fire. His jet shuddered as the 23mm Nudelmann-Rikter cannon pounded out round after round. As the tracers ap-

Catapult crewmen hook up A-1 Skyraider of Attack Squadron (VA) 25 for launch from carrier USS Coral Sea in Gulf of Tonkin for combat mission over North Vietnam, January 1968. Photo: U.S. Navy

proached the target, the Skyraider snaprolled vertical. With vapor trails streaming from its wingtips, the big attack bomber simply turned out of danger.

Now quickly pulling off, the MiG pilot watched his wingman start a diving attack, a beautifully executed high-side pass. Classic, just like their Soviet instructors had taught them. But something went wrong. Dreadfully wrong.

The lumbering old American airplane suddenly turned. Moving like a ballerina, it banked around, avoiding the tracers, and fired. The A-I was meeting its attacker head-on and was giving the MiG everything it had. Even rockets flashed from the Skyraider! Pieces flew from the MiG and a white plume of smoke followed the jet on its erratic descent out of sight.

Now, the first MiG pilot's attention

was drawn from his wingman's plight to movement he'd seen from the corner of his eye. Two more Skyraiders had arrived on the scene and they were above and behind him. One was diving directly on his tail! He couldn't believe a propeller-driven machine could move so fast.

Desperately, he pulled into as tight a turn as possible. But no matter what he did, he couldn't shake the Navy plane. The blunt snout and huge whirling propeller drew closer and closer. Tracking the jet easily, the American pilot fired his wing cannon. Nearly flying up the communist fighter's tailpipe, he watched as the 20mm ripped the MiG apart.

A bright red sheet of flame engulfed the MiG's fuselage. Terrified, its pilot felt the plane begin to roll out of control. As smoke and flame filled the cockpit, the hapless airman ejected.

Now low on fuel, the surviving MiG-17s turned for home and the Navy A-1H Skyraiders continued their patrol with one confirmed kill and one probable kill.





ABOVE: A-1 Skyraider of Attack Squadron 25, ordnance expended, comes in for recovery aboard aircraft carrier USS *Midway* in Gulf of Tonkin. Photo: U.S. Navy

RIGHT: Gulf of Tonkin, January 1968: A-1 Skyraider attack aircraft of Attack Squadron (VA) 25 head inland to conduct combat missions over North Vietnam following launch from carrier USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) on Yankee Station. Photo: U.S. Navy

As this true episode illustrates, the Douglas Skyraider is perhaps one of the most versatile combat aircraft ever conceived. However, it may be said that the Skyraider has had greatness thrust upon it. Designed during the late stages of WW II, the aircraft became operational too late to see action in that conflict. Due for retirement after just five years of service with the U.S. Navy, the big beast was rescued from obscurity when the Korean War broke out in June 1950. It first saw combat on 3 July 1950 off the carrier U.S.S. Valley Forge and its record during the next three years kept



the Skyraider in production until 1957. At this time, after 12 years of production, the Douglas factories had turned out 3,180 machines.

Like all modern aircraft, there were numerous variations of the basic model. The A-1E was basically a two-seat attack bomber, capable of being converted by ready-made kit systems to a 12-seat transport, night attack aircraft, early warning (ECM), 2,000-pound freighter, photo reconnaissance or four-litter ambulance. To call this machine "versatile" seems almost an understatement.

The A-1H, by comparison, was a single-seat low-altitude attack bomber. The A-1J was similar except for its higher-powered, 2,800-horsepower, Wright R3350-26 WB radial-piston engine and beefed-up airframe capable of carrying an almost unbelievable variety of offensive loads, including bombs, depth charges and torpedoes. The A-1J had a maximum speed of 320 miles per hour at 18,500 feet.

This immense load-carrying capability was one of the most remarkable features of the Skyraider, and it played a major role in the airplane's success under operational conditions. The specifications to which it was designed in 1945 called for a load capacity of 1,000 pounds. However, Skyraiders in Korea and Vietnam flew regularly with more than 8,000 pounds of external ordnance. In fact, the airplane has been known to operate with more than 14,000 pounds of underwing stores - greater than the machine's own basic weight. Augmented with four 20mm wing cannon, the Skyraider remains even today one of the most effective counterinsurgency (COIN) aircraft available.

When the United States began to provide aid to the Republic of Vietnam, U.S. advisers started to train pilots for the fledgling Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF). In 1960 several surplus Skyraiders were provided under the Mutual Defense Pact. Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) was directed in 1961 to provide all necessary help to the VNAF in training and tactical operations. American instructors were provided for "on-the-job" training.

Because of the Geneva Accord, the use of modern jet aircraft was prohibited at this time in Indochina. Also, a Vietnamese pilot was to fly every aircraft with an American along only as an instructor. In these early days the VNAF consisted mainly of modified North American T-28s and obsolete Douglas A-26 bombers. The addition of Skyraiders to the operational fleet provided some much-needed firepower.

Meanwhile, the USAF Special Air Warfare Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., began to experiment with many different aircraft in an effort to find a suitable COIN machine. An airplane which could be easily flown, maintained



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Since its inception in 1945, the Douglas Skyraider has been called by many names, as the following short list of designations shows:

AD: AD-1 thru AD-7 — The original designations used for the Skyraiders series by the U.S. Navy. In 1962, all Skyraiders were redesignated A-1A to A-1J.

"ABLE DOG" — Based on the above, this slang term was often used by Navy crews. "Able Dog" was the phonetic pronunciation of "AD."

"SPAD" — The origin of this popular nickname depends on whom you talk to. Some claim "Spad" means "Single-Place AD." Others swear it was named after the classic fighter of World War One. Take your pick.

"SANDY" — This was the radio call-sign used by A-1s while escorting rescue helicopters. It soon became a generic term used for any Skyraider regardless of its mission.



AIR OPS EXPERT

S. Sgt. George Morris' eight-year U.S. Air Force career started in 1972, and was spent mostly in Europe with assignments in both security and air operations.

With special training in intelligence and tactical air warfare, Morris maintains strong interests in special air warfare and counterinsurgency air operations. The use of Skyraider attack aircraft in the "limited war" of Vietnam fits in well with Morris' field of expertise.

Now a civilian, he is working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Administration.

- John Metzger

and operated with minimum support facilities was required to meet the new challenge of "limited warfare." After exhaustive tests it was determined that the faithful old Skyraider was ideal for the task at hand.

As the conflict in 'Nam intensified, it seemed everyone was flying the Skyraider. The USAF's 602nd Fighter Squadron (Commando) and the 1st Air Commando Squadron were soon operating out of Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhut, Nha Trang and Da Nang. With the commitment of regular U.S. ground troops to the war in 1965, constraints against the use of jets were ignored. Pilots of the 1st, 602nd and other units began flying missions without Vietnamese students aboard.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy operated A-1 squadrons from such carriers as the *Ticonderoga, Midway, Ranger, Constellation* and *Intrepid*. Flying against targets in both North and South Vietnam, the carrier-based birds played an important part in the increasing conflict, including retaliatory raids against PT boat bases on the Gulf of Tonkin. Finally, the Navy deactivated its last Skyraider unit in 1967 and turned their planes over to the USAF.

During the war, about 100 A-1H and A-1E aircraft were supplied to South Vietnam and became the VNAF's primary operational combat aircraft. Vietnamese Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky's infamous "Coup Squadron," painted black with tigerskin markings and based at Tan Son Nhut, was comprised of A-1H Skyraiders. Officially known as the 83rd Special Air Group, this was one of the elite units of the VNAF. The 83rd was Ky's personal air unit and was sometimes alerted for a show of strength when other generals were suspected of having ideas of a coup to overthrow Ky and his government.

It was in the Close Air Support mission that the old bird really showed its stuff. It offered a superb 300-knot gunnery platform. It was said that a flight of four of these machines could deliver the destructive force equivalent to a broadside salvo of six-inch guns from a naval cruiser. And unlike the jet "fast movers," the Skyraider could stay on target for hours at a time. By bringing the enemy bombs, rockets, CBU (Cluster Bomb Units) and 20mm cannon, the A-1 could inflict heavy casualties on Charlie.

Its ability to deliver ordnance with uncanny accuracy became legendary. Many a hard-pressed infantry patrol owes its survival to Skyraiders showing up at the right place at the right time. It was these same attributes which made the Skyraider ideal for Forward Air Control (FAC) and armed helicopter escort. Scores of downed pilots owe their lives to the lumbering old bird. She kept Charlie's head down while rescue choppers hovered to pluck them from the

enemy-infested jungle.

However, one Skyraider pilot didn't even bother to use a helicopter to rescue a fellow airman. On 10 March 1966, Maj. Bernard Fisher flew his Skyraider into the raging battle between the Viet Cong and a Special Forces camp and landed, rescuing another downed Skyraider jock.

The A Shau Valley Special Forces camp was hard-pressed, holding on only by virtue of air support. The weather began to deteriorate, and the 1500-foot hills surrounding the camp became obscured by thick clouds. As a result, when the Green Berets called for additional air support, all pilots were strictly volunteers. Maj. Fisher was one of them, making repeated strafing attacks against the massing VC. He also led a cargo plane through the dangerous overcast so it could drop desperately needed supplies to the camp.

One of the other A-1 pilots was delivering air support to the camp when his aircraft was struck by enemy fire. With his engine knocked out, the pilot, Col. Stafford Myers, made a forced landing on the abandoned airstrip adjacent to the A Shau camp. With Maj. Fisher covering him from above, Myers' crippled bird managed to skid to a halt. Standing on the runway like a sitting duck, the airplane immediately came under intense enemy fire. Quickly abandoning his cockpit, Col. Myers took cover in a ditch alongside the runway. Soon the downed officer would become another dead "imperialist."

Something had to be done. While three other Skyraiders covered him, Maj. Fisher decided to jump from the frying pan into the fire. He would go down and rescue his squadron mate. Smoke and flying steel filled the air. The major had to make two passes at the embattled strip before he could get the big bird down and stopped. By that time, however, the covering Skyraiders were all "Winchester" (out of ammo). Nonetheless, the A-1s continued to make dry passes over the advancing enemy in an attempt to keep them off balance. The situation was desperate.

Col. Myers stared in disbelief as Fisher taxied his A-1 along the smoke-obscured runway. He could see oil drums exploding in flames along the strip's perimeter and the VC rapidly approaching in the distance. Myers immediately sprinted to his rescuer, and with Fisher's help clambered into the cockpit. Within seconds the plane was zigzagging down the mortar-cratered runway to avoid enemy fire. Bullets struck the A-1 as Fisher pointed its nose down the runway. Fisher gave the Skyraider full throttle and bolted down the strip.

The bullet-riddled aircraft lifted into the air and quickly climbed for altitude and joined the escorting Skyraiders. The formation departed the combat area to

JANUARY/83



Air Early Warning Squadron 33 (VAW-33) Skyraiders, designated EA-1F attack aircraft, fly in formation over Narragansett Bay, R.I., 15 October 1968. Photo: U.S. Navy

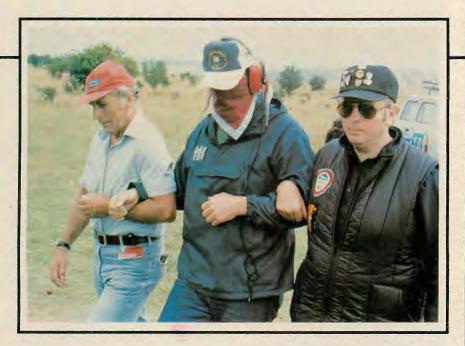
recover at Pleiku. They undoubtedly left some incredulous VC standing back on the blazing A Shau strip, scratching their heads and wondering what happened. Maj. Fisher later received the Medal of Honor for his gallant and audacious rescue effort.

Today, the Skyraider is no longer in the operational arsenal of the United States. However, some smaller air forces continue to use it as a front-line combat machine. For example, Chad and Gabon still find the ugly old bird useful in COIN operations. Likewise, the Central African Republic, Kampuchea and Vietnam also maintain a few Skyraiders.

Someday, somewhere, America will be faced with another "limited war." I'm betting that when that time comes, A-ls will be pulled out of mothballs and once again see service. So don't be surprised if you see the venerable beast rumbling above some remote jungle or desert. If you do, just hope and pray she's on your side.

MAD YANKS & ENGLISHMEN

SOF Enters Team in 1982 European IPSC Championships



WHEN one envisions large numbers of combat pistol shooters gathered for an international championship, one does not immediately associate the event with England. Well-known for its tough anti-gun laws (particularly handguns), England would seem a poor choice as a site for a handgun match. In fact, however, combat pistol shooting is flourishing in the United Kingdom.

For the 1982 European Championships, Soldier Of Fortune decided to enter its own two-man team, Combat Pistolcraft columnist Ken Hackathorn and Speed Shooting Champion Mike Plaxco of Arkansas.

The location for the contest was Infantry Range No. 6, Heytesbury, North Warminster in Wiltshire, England, the British equivalent of Deadwood, S.D.

More than 100 competitors from Western Europe shot in the three-day match, which consisted of 10 mini-

Who is that masked man? SOF's Ken Hackathorn is led to "surprise" shootoff. All contestants were kept in pub five kilometers from range prior to the match. While Englishmen nervously waited their turns, Hackathorn and fellow SOF-sponsored shooter Mike Plaxco played darts. (Plaxco won.)

assault courses and one "house clearing."

Each match was laid out in a line in the rolling hills in order that each handgunner might fire one stage, then move downrange to the next. Hackathorn and Plaxco began with Match No. 9, which involved doing some shooting on the run while avoiding hitting the no-shoots set up to prevent pure machine-gunning.

Plaxco took to the field first, blazing through the course in 13.12 seconds, but after scrutiny one of the targets was one hit short: a shot that would come back to haunt Plaxco in the next few days. Hackathorn took





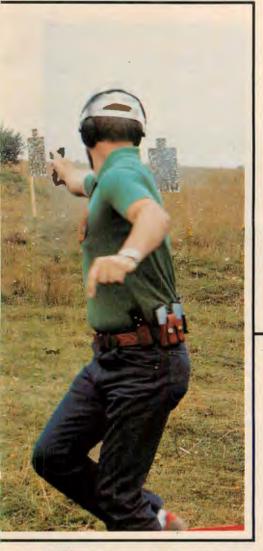
Hackathorn engages target during "surprise" shoot-off. A real surprise awaited him a few shots later!

the cue and slowed down to 15.92 seconds, and completed all targets.

Americans are accustomed to shooting one or two matches a day, but the Europeans like a lot of stages. As soon as you were finished with one you moved to the next range for another go.

The matches were not shot in numerical order, but it was evident after day one that on set-time events Plaxco's speed was actually working against him. One stage using turning targets required that the contestant draw, fire two rounds at

Text & Photos by Jake Jatras



Get him on the run! Ken Hackathorn whizzes by target and shoots on the move.

three targets 10 yards downrange, reload and repeat — in six seconds. Plaxco shot his 12 rounds, and had holstered his .45 before the targets turned away — he thought they had broken. This cost him a few extra points since he really had time to slow down (relatively speaking) and go for more accuracy. Hackathorn sailed through, timing it just right, and dropped only four points.

On another timed event the Disaster Factor caught up with Hackathorn. The stage required the shooter to draw and engage three targets at 10 yards with two shots each. Time limit: 3.5 seconds. On Hackathorn's first shot he had a failure to feed and while he deserved a medal for clearing the malfunction, the targets turned, costing him a potential 30 points. Plaxco dropped five points on this fast test of skill.

The "Mozambique Defense" is an oft-used IPSC test, where the shooter fires two shots into the body and one to the head. The Brits modified



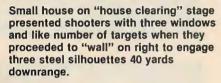
SOF-sponsored pistolero Mike Plaxco takes out some bad guys at close range.

this, using six-inch-square ceramic tiles for heads, and placing two targets at 10 yards with a steel stop plate on the ground in the center. The match was scored "Comstock count" (point score divided by time).

Plaxco was once again up first and had runs of 4.81 and 3.51 seconds. Hackathorn was steady and shot times of 3.80 and 3.87 seconds. This stage helped put both SOFers back into the race for the top spot.

Meanwhile the hosts and the other international competitors were doing their best to keep the Yanks out of the shoot-offs. Two-time Eurochamp Bob Dunkley from England was shooting well, as were Peter Boniface and Paul Walker, both from Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

European shooters' skill has increased a hundredfold from a few

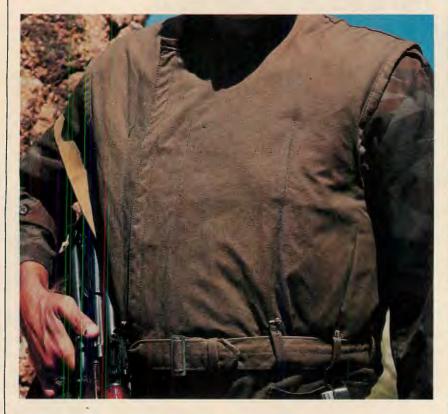


years ago and Dunkley is a good example of their progress in practical pistolcraft. The 33-year-old Englishman has been shooting IPSC for six years and has reigned as England's Champion for the past four. He also has won the Eurochamps two years in a row, and wanted to make it three. (Especially since SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown had promised \$1,000 to the winner.)

Thirty kilometers from the range is Stonehenge and the Druid spirits must have resented the Colonials' efforts, as a bad break cost hotshooting Plaxco the top seed for Saturday's shoot-off. Match One was called the "Wall Shoot" and forced title aspirants to fire through a series of wood slats a la picket fence. One of Plaxco's 200-grain lead slugs touched the edge of a slat and careened into a no-shoot target. Ouch! Take off 10 points.

The house clearing for this match was actually two houses, as shooters first ran by a small building with three windows and three targets, then had to engage three metal full-size silhouettes tucked away in Building No. 2, 40 yards away. Tough shooting in any match.

After taking out the metal foes one had to run to the larger "house," kick in the door, leap inside the dark room and take care of some bad guys and a stop plate. Hackathorn Continued on page 75







ABOVE: Side view of Soviet flak-jacket. Elastic bands hold vest together, but won't keep out bullets.

ABOVE LEFT: Front view of GI Soviet body armor. Overlap covers row of four black-enameled eyelet-and-hook steel fasteners, and "protects" five-inch strip from clavicle to waist. Soviets must consider research and development in personal-garment protection low priority. Weapon is folding-stock North Korean AK-47.

CENTER LEFT: Inner liner of Soviet flakjacket. Elongated pockets hold single heatsealed plastic packets stuffed with partially processed cotton wadding.

BELOW LEFT: Inner liner of Soviet flakjacket. Note exposed plastic bags filled with cotton wadding.

BELOW: Close-up of heat-sealed plastic packets which are supposed to stop bullets. Body-armor design is consistent with Marxist ideology's low regard for the individual.





SOF Exclusive Look At Soviet Body Armor BAD NEWS FOR BORIS

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

SOF was recently presented with the unique opportunity to examine in detail and evaluate the only known specimen of current-issue Soviet infantry body armor in the West. More appropriately called a "flak-jacket," this particular vest was captured during Operation Protea (see "To Russia With Love," SOF, January '82) by South African Army personnel. It was removed from a Russian Army adviser taken prisoner in the raid.

The vest and its belt are made of darkgreen, moderately heavy cotton fabric. A row of four black-enameled eyeletand-hook steel fasteners, of a type not in general use in this country since the 1920s, extends down the front and allows a five-inch-wide overlap of the ballistic panels from the clavicle to the waist. The belt has a simple steel buckle and is held in place by cloth loops stitched outside at the bottom of the vest.

The vest's inner liner is composed of a series of elongated pockets, about five inches wide. There are four pockets in both the front and rear and one halfpocket on the right and left sides. The pockets are fabricated from a chocolatebrown, lightweight cotton. The front and rear pockets are open two-thirds of the way toward the bottom to allow for replacement of the ballistic panels.

The ballistic panels themselves are a series of heavy, transparent plastic bags, approximately nine by four inches, with the filler material heat-sealed inside. The front and rear portions of the vest contain double-connected bags. The half pockets on the right and left sides each hold one single bag. The pockets vary in thickness, but none is more than one inch thick.

The most startling aspect of the Russian flak-jacket is the composition of the filler in the plastic bags. Is it titanium? Or, perhaps, a super-technological advance akin to kryptonite? No, the contents of all the double and single heatsealed plastic packets consist of cotton wadding which has only been partially ginned or processed so that many plant particles remain amid the off-white to tan cotton fibers!

Now, wet-rolled cotton is frequently employed by forensic firearms examiners as a bullet-recovery medium. However, much of its projectile-arresting capability lies in the fact that it is saturated with water. In this configuration, a .22 LR roundnose solid-point bullet fired directly into wet, rolled cotton will typically penetrate 12 to 14 inches before coming to rest.

Development of body armor in the NATO countries has centered around four materials, which are often used in combination. They are (in order of increasing effectiveness):

Du Pont's Kevlar® is a nylon cloth that is the most revolutionary of all substances used in body armor. Unlike the other materials, it literally absorbs the projectile and dissipates its kinetic energy through the cloth and its backing surface. Certain weaves and thicknesses of Kevlar® can stop all pistol-caliber ammunition.

Glass-reinforced plastic is a resinbased chemical-strengthened material with woven glass fiber. It affords protection by both partially absorbing and partially rejecting the projectile. Its rigid plates can be molded into any shape, but it must be replaced after a single impact. It is not effective against high-velocity rifle projectiles, but has worked well against shrapnel.

Ceramic plates yield great hardness with low density. They are in actuality opaque glass fabricated from boron carbide or pure aluminum oxide. Ceramic plates work by totally rejecting the bullet and bouncing it off. They are usually backed by Kevlar® and can be made to offer protection against high-velocity rifle calibers. However, once damaged by a single impact, they must be replaced.

Low-alloy steel plates offer the greatest protection and, most important, can withstand successive, edge-to-edge hits. They are the only material which can consistently stop armor-piercing projectiles. Their often unacceptable trade-off is weight. To achieve the highest level of protection, the plates' weight can approach 30 pounds.

Second Chance's Hardcorps military

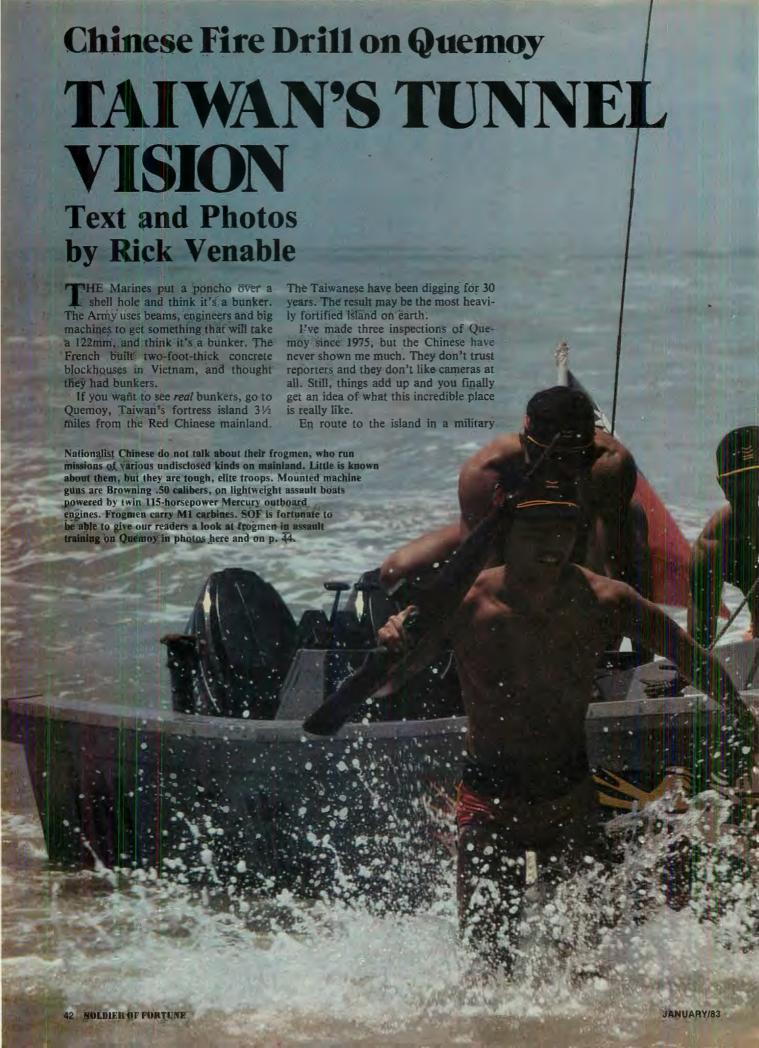
units with both the K47 and K30 laminated steel-alloy plates in front of Kevlar® backing will stop all known NATO and ComBloc .30-caliber armor-piercing rounds. At less than 12 pounds, Safariland Ballistics' Hard Armor offers protection against the 7.62mm NATO M80 ball projectile. It utilizes the latest ceramic-plate technology.

And what will this lightweight threepound Soviet vest stop? Very little, if anything, I'm happy to say. Presumably, spent shards of shrapnel might be absorbed by its feeble cotton-filled panels. But I wouldn't let anyone shoot at me with a .22 BB Cap while wearing this vest, as in addition to its previously noted deficiencies, there are 11/2-inch gaps along all the liner pocket seams. Remember, however, that American Vietnam-era flak-jackets, while effective against shell fragments, stopped only the lower velocity pistol rounds.

Several important inferences may be drawn from this examination of current Soviet body armor. First, its poor quality and lack of adequate protection are fully consistent with Marxist ideology's low regard for the individual, whose protective garments consequently have low priority in overall Soviet military research and development.

Secondly, our initial dismay and immediate disenchantment with this item are in no small measure a precondition of decades of "threat inflation" by the Pentagon in the effort to obtain ever-increasing defense appropriations. It reminds me of Western disappointment after first-hand inspection of the MiG-25 flown to Japan by defecting Soviet Air Force pilot Viktor I. Belenko in 1976. Years of being bombarded by the fear of the Soviet threat from our defense establishment have made it difficult to accept that in many areas of technology (especially the ones they don't particularly care about), the Soviets are still in the stone age.

Finally, we can conclude that use of this vest could be worse than nothing at all, if one were lulled into thinking it offered a degree of protection that was only a propagandistic fantasy. 突



transport. Nationalist Air Force F-5s fly cover overhead. Above ground on the island - which is not where the action is - you see countless pillboxes everywhere; no pictures, please. The countryside itself resembles other Asian landscapes many of us remember, though much more prosperous, with water buffalo in lush fields and Chinese children everywhere. Concrete anti-aircraft positions stand at road intersections, camouflaged with nets now grown-over with real vines. The guns are almost invisible, but look to be light stuff, maybe 20 mike-mike. Heap secret: Nationalists no say nothing. And guns are always manned here.

You get occasional distant glimpses of heavily fortified beaches. Any questions result in a polite Chinese equivalent of "No kidding? You mean we got beaches here?" The fact is that if a sea turtle tried to lay its eggs here, it would find about a vertical yard of mines upon mines — assuming it got through obstacles in the shallows.

What really gets your attention is when the bus drives into the hillside.



Nationalist Chinese Army trooper is first in line for sick call in front of underground clinic in Quemoy.



Member of Nationalist Chinese Army Psychological Warfare troops prepares to launch propaganda balloon from Quemoy. Attached is Taiwan's flag. Slogans, food, clothes, etc., are flown across to mainland, set to land at different times. Balloons are probably most effective propaganda weapon used by Taiwan since they might actually be found by civilians of PRC.



TUNNEL

Driving up between close banks, it enters through huge steel doors, then follows tunnels blasted from solid rock. Sometimes you see the barrel of a tank gun protruding from a door. When you can drive a large bus at 30 miles per hour through your bunker, there's no longer any question: It's an honest-to-god, heavy-duty, no-smoke bunker. I'd estimate the tunnels are nine to 12 feet high, but it's hard to tell in dim light. As you drive through these caves, you see other tunnels - lots of other tunnels branching off in all directions. How many there are, or where they go, is not something the Chinese talk about. ("Tunnels? Tunnels and beaches both?") However, I've heard that you can drive from one end of the island to the other without seeing daylight. I mean, without even being anywhere near daylight.

Fighting positions and communications tunnels are less comfortable. I don't know how many eight-inch guns are positioned in those tunnels, but there are more than a few. I've watched the crews at gunnery drill. I promise they know how to do it. Around the corner and well down from the gun positions, where no enemy round could get them, are ammo rooms — all full. Along the way are small ready-rooms, with bunks, cut into rock.

Could the communist Chinese take this place? The easy answer is to say that with a billion people, you can take any small island. But I'm not so sure. They could get air superiority at a price: The communists have 4,000 fighters (mostly old MiGs) to less than 400 for the Nationalists (256 F-5Es, the rest F-104s and F-100s), mostly on Taiwan. The communists also have lousy pilots and poor maintenance, which would cost them. Only God and Taiwan know how many AA guns poke from holes in the rock, but it's a lot.

But air superiority wouldn't count for much unless the communists could



Taiwan's elite frogmen practice beach assault on Quemoy.

Did your bunker in 'Nam have a 1,500-seat, A-bomb-proof (yep) movie theater in it, blasted from solid rock? They have one here. In wartime it becomes a hospital. In some parts of the tunnel system you can walk for a long time through linoleum-floored, wood-paneled corridors lined with offices and modern, glassed-in clinics that could easily pass for the inside of a big U.S. office building — except there are no windows and the nurses wear cammies. There seems to be most of a small city under there.

maintain a blockade long enough to starve the defenders — and they've got lots of Cs down there. You could bomb this place for years and do little more than stir top soil over the tunnels. Artillery from the island would chew up landing craft in large numbers, especially since every inch of beach and water is preregistered by the eight-inchers. Getting across those beaches is something I hate to think about — and who knows how far back from the beaches the mines go? There is a good chance that losses would be so high that even Chinese

troops would refuse to continue. In Korea they soon lost their enthusiasm for assaulting Marine positions.

Things could change, however. The U.S. State Department, which is as usual full of Ivy League left-liberals, is trying to get the United States to stop selling arms to Taiwan. With Washington being what it is, they will probably succeed. Meanwhile, we and Europe continue to sell militarily useful technology to the communists.

The craziest thing about the island is the propaganda war between Quemoy and the mainland - crazy because, so far as I can see, it accomplishes nothing. There used to be a lot of serious shelling back and forth. Now, both sides stick to firing artillery shells - on the same day each week - full of sweaters and peaches. (So help me, I'm not making this up.) You dig up this 155 that landed in your backyard and unscrew the top — it's got a ring to make it easier — and you find all kinds of goodies and propaganda inside. The idea is that you'll eat this stuff and figure the other side really lives great. (Too bad the Chicoms didn't do this in Cambodia, via the Khmer Rouge. There were times when I could've used some peaches....) Anyway, the Nationalists make the shell casings into kitchen knives and sell them. Really.

The Nationalists also pack little radios, permanently tuned to their propaganda stations, into styrofoam boxes and float them across to the mainland. This has got to be a waste of radios. I know perfectly well the People's Republic of China (PRC) has a bunch of guys who walk along the beach, pick them up and burn them. But the Nationalist Chinese still do it.

The weirdest military installations I have seen — well, almost — are the loud-speaker stations both sides have set up where the gap between them is shortest. These consist of banks of big speakers driven by thousands of watts for amplification. Inside a heavy blockhouse, a girl sits at a microphone and says - in slow Chinese - things like "Mao is a faggot," or whatever they say. It comes booming out of the speakers as a terrific screech that will remove your eardrums. The PRC does the same. The trouble is that it's unintelligible except in perfect weather, and of course neither side is going to let unreliable people get close enough to listen. A complete waste of money.

Last, there is the balloon war. It seems that the prevailing winds favor capitalism. The Nationalists fill great gaudy swarms of balloons with hydrogen, set them to come down at different distances, hang propaganda and radios and things on them, and let them go toward the PRC. This is probably somewhat effective as the balloons land deep inside the mainland where people can find them. Still, it's obvious that nothing is going to come of it.

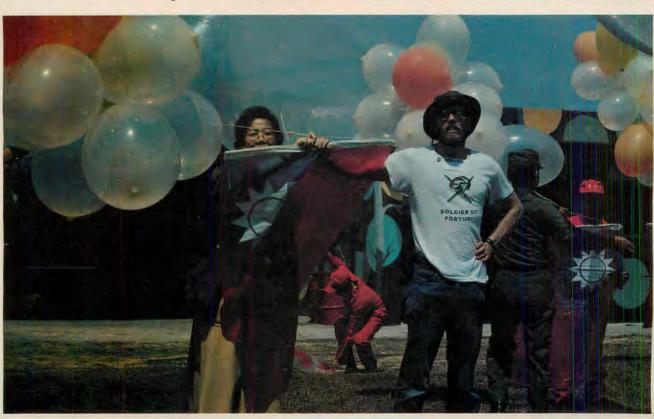
The high point of the tour is always the feast and drinking bout the Chinese put on for visitors - a dozen courses of great food bearing no resemblance to anything found in Chinese restaurants in the States, accompanied by lots of Gau Liang. Gau Liang is distilled sorghum booze that would eat the chrome off a trailer hitch. It burns with a blue flame and leaves nothing. As nerve gas goes, it is crude but effective. While you are eating, a waiter runs around with a little bucket of it and keeps your shot glass full. The Chinese custom is to toast a visitor and say, "Gan Bei" ("clean glass"), at which point both toss down the shot. Then that ruthless bastard of a waiter fills them again.

Until you've stood off six Chinese colonels and a general in a drinking bout, you don't know what human-wave tactics are — and they love to get a visitor drunk. By sheer concentration, I managed to leave upright with my eyes uncrossed, my honor intact and my liver struggling. 突

RIGHT: Nationalist China's way of telling Reds how good they have it on Taiwan: 155mm artillery shell, packed with goodies to send to mainland. Propaganda cannot be too effective, and SOF's Rick Venable saw other examples of a wasteful hearts-andminds campaign. Note ring-topped shell casing (left) for easy opening.

BELOW: Looks like a celebration, but balloons are laden with propaganda material that will be set loose by Nationalist Chinese Psychological Warfare troops and will land on mainland at different times to show communists what they're missing. Author Venable holds Taiwanese flag.





Chipping Away At SWAPO SPRINGBOK UPDATE

Text & Photos by Al J. Venter





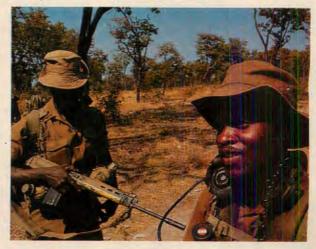
T'S not because John Twaddle is dead that people remember him as a great guy to have around, either back at base or in the bush. He really was that, with an insouciant smile and the kind of wit which belied the sterner stuff of which he was made.

Just 25 years of age, he had wavy brown hair and an athletic build which might remind some people of a "beach bum," but Capt. John Guy Twaddle, late of the South African Air Force, was a cool operator in a tight spot. In command of a battlefieldsupport French-built Aerospatiale Puma helicopter, John Twaddle had his share of near misses, the sort of experiences that make good telling afterward. He also had a sharp, nononsense mind of his own, as this event, which occurred shortly before he was killed in action in South Angola, August 1982, shows.

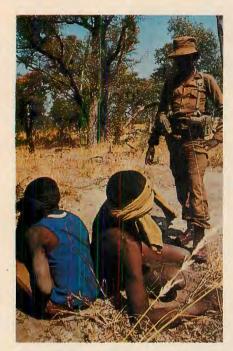
One afternoon, Capt. Twaddle was collared by a group of VIP senior officers in the Operational Area. They demanded to be taken immediately out in one of the Pumas to an area adjacent to the border. Unruffled by the sudden show of brass and unbridled authority, the young captain refused. Just like that! He hadn't been briefed, he said. What was more, the flight hadn't been cleared or coordinated by Control. The brass had to concede - unless, of course, they wanted to arrest him

for disobeying an order.

Flying over much of south Angola during 1982, Capt. Twaddle had become "part of the scene" on operations when the South Africans searched for SWAPO (South West African People's Organization), the Marxist-backed terrorist movement. He was there in early August, not long after the start of a huge operation into the interior that eventually left almost 400 SWAPO dead, some of them several hundred



South African black troops fight alongside whites against SWAPO terrs. Soldier on left carries FN FAL with mortar rounds in backpack.



Two SWAPO suspects about to be interrogated by South African black troopie.

kilometers inside Angola where they had made their new bases after the last ones had been obliterated.

Capt. John Guy Twaddle was killed in that operation with 14 others — co-pilot Lt. Chris Pietersen, flight engineer Coert Grobler and 12 passengers (Parabats — paratroopers with No.1 South African Parachute Battalion).

It was the misfortune of the 15 men that they literally flew down the barrel of an enemy gun and were blasted out of the sky. Traveling over thousands of square kilometers of featureless bush terrain (all of it as flat as the proverbial pancake), it must have been fate that put the Puma on a course that took it directly over the heaviest concentration of SWAPO terrorists in the region, and a bevy of Soviet-supplied ZSU-23/24 multi-barreled 23mm anti-aircraft guns.

Naturally, the terrorists were elated. Radio Luanda broadcast the downing of the chopper within hours, claiming that "20 or more" South Africans had been killed. Not long afterward, Radio Moscow as well as East Germany's powerful shortwave transmitter station pumped out their versions of the "glorious anti-Imperialist victory."

For their part, the South Africans acted with alacrity. Other choppers in the formation had seen their lead aircraft take a dive and they promptly alerted base. A concerted land and air strike followed immediately. Later the same day more than 100 terrorists from that base were "taken out."

John Twaddle and his mates were

brought down within the perimeter of the insurgent camp. Their bodies were later found to have been desecrated and some of the insurgents who were subsequently killed were wearing the dead men's dogtags.

One terrorist leader — probably a section commander or SWAPO political commissar — had a camera in his pack that was discovered after he had been killed. This particular individual must have been a senior man in the organization because cameras, generally, are streng verboten among SWAPO cadres, as they are in all radical armies, especially those backed by the USSR.

The film, developed back in South Africa, showed grotesque shots of the downed Puma and its crew. Had the Springboks not reacted quickly, those same pictures would probably have adorned the front page of some Marxist Luanda propaganda sheet. Or Pravda.

Since Operation Protea (see "To Russia with Love," SOF, January '82), which took place little more than a year ago, much has changed in the nature and course of this war which has now lasted 16 years. There were other actions during the latter part of 1981, but they were brought to a halt by the rainy season. The current spate of probes and feints toward SWAPO concentrations in August 1982 has been the biggest for many months, and though not on the scale of Operation Protea, they have taken a toll.

Altogether, almost 1,700 SWAPO terrorists have been killed in the past 16 months, about 950 of them since the beginning of 1982. South African security forces' losses in that time frame number just over 70 (including the 15 that died in Capt. Twaddle's Puma). Latest onslaughts have taken South African forces even further north than they went during Operation Daisy (see "Battles Beyond Angola's Border," SOF, May '82), which almost reached the Angolan mining town of Cassinga and the railway line to the coast, more than 300 klicks into Angola, in November 1981. Now, having pinpointed new SWAPO bases, the South Africans went in and hit them. Hard.

It is significant that SWAPO has been forced to disperse much deeper into the interior of the hostile neighbor state than ever before. Previous SWAPO concentrations were restricted to regions south of Cassinga. Latest strikes went north of that position; on one occasion more than 100 terrorists were killed in an afternoon's fire fight. The South Africans lost one man on that occasion.

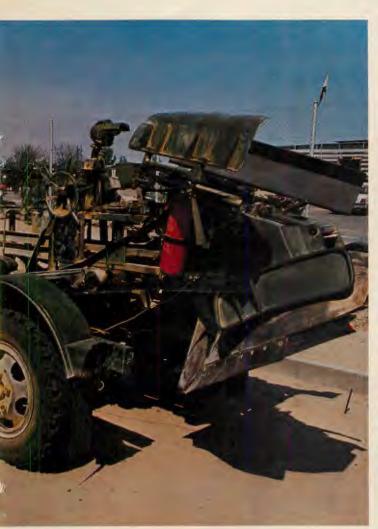


ABOVE: One of first photographs taken of captured Russian mobile mine layer. Vehicle was captured by Springboks near Cuban base. BELOW: South African Mirage F1 fighter jets stand by for action against MiG-21 attack. Last time this happened South Africans shot down MiG flown by Cuban pilot.





ABOVE: South Africans on the move in captured southern Angola town. Marxist signs compete with old beer ad.





ABOVE: South African Army truck becomes makeshift weapons platform with forwardmounted Browning .30-caliber 1919A4 machine gun, and Oerlikon 20mm belt-fed cannon KAA (formerly designated 204 GK) in rear. Truck is part of convoy heading north into captured SWAPO territory in southern Angola.



Among the hardware taken intact by the South Africans were many anti-aircraft guns in the 14.5mm and 23mm range, as well as SAM-7s, which had proved largely ineffective against the attacking aircraft. There were enough Russian RPG-7 rockets and launchers captured to resupply every South African unit in the Operational Area. There was also an important ambush during this period when South African Special Forces hit a convoy of 13 SWAPO trucks, most of which were taken intact after their occupants had been killed. The prize included three mobile antiaircraft vehicles containing an "advanced system of anti-aircraft defense.'

Though Pretoria remains silent about the exact nature of this system, there is speculation that the vehicles contained a late-generation missile system, a recent entry to the war that would possibly bring Angola more in line with pro-Soviet Middle East airdefense systems. One source claimed that SAM-6s were captured, but I have been unable to confirm this. since the South African Defense Headquarters maintains a strict "no comment." It is known that bigger centers are guarded by 10-meter



ABOVE: Soviet T-34 tank takes hammering from South African Air Force jet striker on outskirts of town taken by Springboks. LEFT: South African convoy heads north to fight. Front-mounted machine guns are Browning .30-caliber 1919A4s; rear firepower is Oerlikon 20mm belt-fed cannon KAA (formerly designated 204 GK). BELOW: Springboks deploy in ambush positions in thick southern Angola bush country, with FN MAG and FALs at the ready.



SAM-3s with 100-kilo warheads.

There have been several side effects to this ongoing war of attrition, which is inflicting considerable losses on SWAPO. The first of these is that the movement is getting little or no practical support from the Angolan Government forces - FAPLA (Army for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Angola) — or from the Cubans, many of whom appear to have fled before the advancing South African column. The Springboks passed within two kilometers of Tchetchamatet south of Cassinga, once a Castro stronghold in the region. The camp, heavily fortified, appears to have been almost abandoned. Certainly, the South Africans weren't challenged en route, and, because Pretoria's argument is not with Havana, the facility was left intact, although the military logic of this gesture eludes me.

But then politicians appear to have a heavy hand in the ultimate outcome of this war, which worries some of the South African combatants. A Rhodesian sell-out by the West remains heavy in the hearts of some of the men, especially now that a Marxist president is ensconced in Salisbury (since renamed Harare).

A second outcome of the increased fervor of South African forces and resultant heavy losses on the part of SWAPO is the decline in ability of the average SWAPO bush fighter. This is illustrated by an event which took place while I was in Ovamboland

A South African police counterinsurgency column (they operate independently of the army) was

ambushed in eastern Ovambo by a group of 40 terrorists, who had laid a traditional L-shaped ambush position. The first line of police vehicles had entered the killing zone before the terrorists opened up. Within a minute, the entire strike force was on the run, and 15 terrorists lay dead on the battlefield.

The police force didn't suffer a single casualty, not even a man wounded. And they had been deprived of the element of surprise. Had this happened 18 months ago, the story would probably have been different. The bulk of SWAPO's veteran fighters have been killed or invalided out of the revolutionary movement. Even the concerted terrorist strike earlier in 1982 into the white occupied farmlands (directly south of the Operational Area) was a catastrophe, though civilians were killed in the onslaught, which took weeks to neutralize.

It took even longer to clear the area of about 70 "top-drawer" terrorists who were part of the strike (all of whom were crack reconnaissance veterans) but the majority were killed before they could withdraw. Like the previous group of "specialist fighters" who were killed during Operation Super last spring (see "Death on the Skeleton Coast," SOF, October '82), the loss was catastrophic - 201 terrorists killed for the loss of three South Africans since the majority of these men were SWAPO veterans of many battles with the Springboks.

Obviously, if you keep chipping away at the terrorist infrastructure long enough, it is bound to give in the long run. And though there are still several thousand armed SWAPO insurgents active in South Angola, they're generally not on a par with those that went before. There are exceptions to the rule, of course, and the South Africans are the first to take cognizance of this. They're not taking chances with lives. Within the South West African sphere of operations in Ovamboland, the war



remains very much on a level it has maintained during the 12 months before August of last year.

No one is telling exactly how many terrorists remain active within the boundaries of South West Africa/Namibia, although an educated guess is somewhere between 200 and 300 — and some say 600. While with the police strike force, we had word that a further three companies of terrs were being directed into Ovamboland, and though we went looking for spoor, we found nothing.

Groups that are being tracked have developed a fairly advanced system of anti-tracking measures. Some of these terrorists are able to walk two or three kilometers at a stretch on their toes in order to confuse security forces. The imprint left in the sand is almost indistinguishable from animal tracks.

Mines in a variety of configurations are still being laid by the enemy coming in from the north, as well as an even larger variety of antipersonnel devices, including POM-Zs—but these are largely restricted to areas close to the Angolan border. No terrorist can afford to cut himself off from the neighboring territory for long; to do so would be suicide. Contacts within Ovamboland are very rarely initiated by terrorists; and this

has been a definite pattern during the past year. Instead, terrorists tend to move between groups of civilians, who can be regarded as friendly, politicizing and intimidating them in order to gain an advantage prior to the forthcoming general election in South West Africa in which the United Nations is likely to have a hand.

Occasionally, insurgent forces will mortar what they claim is a security-force camp. In mid-August 1982, they mortared a local beer hall and killed seven civilians. The watering hole apparently belonged to a member of the police home-guard; not a single policeman died or was injured in the attack. The next day the action was given a good deal of prominence in Luanda, with claims of "hundreds of South African troops killed and seven helicopters destroyed on the ground."

One of the significant internal problems of the war is the dispute about actual South African casualties. This has serious ramifications as far as military credibility goes in the country; credibility suffered severely during the Angolan Civil War when the world knew that South Africans were

involved although the South Africans themselves back home weren't told. The official position with all casualties, following an inquiry, is as follows:

All operational deaths are made public immediately after the next of kin have been informed. If an operation is clandestine or if news of it might compromise the outcome of a particular operational goal, details of deaths might be delayed — but never for more than a few days.

Unfortunately, South Africa suffers from a disproportionate number of accidental military deaths. For instance, it's no secret that in the eight-month period up to August 1982, there were 18 casualties resulting from accidental discharges (ADs) in the operational area. This heavy loss could necessitate drastic action. The Rhodesians arrested any man responsible for an AD and courtmartialed him, no matter what the circumstances. Even a Rhodesian Army colonel was once arrested on such a charge. ADs dropped by 76 percent the first year after these measures were implemented.

Maybe South Africa should try something similar. Certainly, the astonishing number of accidental shootings cannot go on at the present rate.

For the family back home to lose a son in action against the enemy is one thing; to sacrifice a life because of someone else's stupidity is altogether another matter **





FIELD COMMANDER

SOF Tests & Evaluates Steiner's Revolutionary Binocular

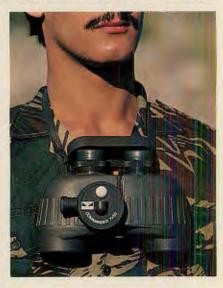
Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

ABOVE: Alex Pappas holds Steiner 7x50 Commander. Macrolon® housing is corrosion-free, salt-waterresistant, shockproof, heat-resistant and exceptionally lightweight. Housings are protected by rubber armor which is ribreinforced for greater heft and better handling.



ABOVE: Most innovative feature of 7x50
Commander is integrated top-mounted magnetic compass. Compass functions in liquid-dampened system and is fitted with hardened stainless-steel needle and jewel bearings. RIGHT:

Note NATO olive-green protective covering.



S yet little known in this A country, German-made Steiner military-marine binoculars are the largest selling binocular in Europe. Shortly after WWII, several German Leitz engineers, led by Dr. Steiner, escaped from the Russians and started a new company in Bayreuth, West Germany, specializing in military optical systems. Recently introduced into the United States by Pioneer & Co. (Dept. SOF, Suite 522, 216 Haddon Ave., Westmont, NJ 08108), Steiner now supplies military binoculars to 41 nations, including NATO forces and Israel.

I have been testing their top-of-the-line 7x50 Commander with integrated radial compass and it is the most outstanding binocular I've ever had in my hands. This model had the largest dollar sales volume of all binoculars in the German market in 1981.

Of porro-prism design (see "SOF Focuses on Binoculars," SOF, June '82), the image quality is superb and unmatched by any other binocular on the market with regard to edge and center resolution, contrast, light-transmission power and absence of color-fringing.

The most innovative and distinctive feature of the Steiner 7x50 Commander is the integrated, top-mounted magnetic compass. The compass image is magnified six times and mirrored into the field of vision. The compass functions in a liquid-dampened system and is fitted with a hardened stainless-steel needle and jewel bearings. Its precise compass rose can be read as a 360-degree scale or a 6400-mills graduated scale. How simple it now becomes to locate a distant target or object, align it with the vertical scale, make note of the compass bearing and relay this information while passing the binocular over to another person. At last, a means of instant target referencing! For use at twilight and night the compass is batteryilluminated.

The 7x50 Commander I am using is equipped with a vertical graticule scale only. In addition to its use in taking compass azimuths, it functions as a crude rangefinder by use of the following formula:

distance in meters =
height of target (in meters) × 1000
size read from scale

A special military version of the 7x50 Commander for use by artillery or mortar FOs is available with both vertical and horizontal graticule scales.

The housings of all Steiner military binoculars are constructed of Macrolon®, a fiberreinforced polycarbonate. Macrolon® has several important advantages over conventional metal binocular housings. It is corrosionfree, saltwater-resistant, shockproof, heat-resistant and exceptionally lightweight. For additional strength and in order to minimize damage as a consequence of rough military field use, Steiner binocular housings are covered with a NATO olivegreen-colored protective rubber armor which is ribreinforced for greater heft and better handling characteristics.

Steiner military binoculars are sealed against dust and moisture and 100 percent guaranteed to function under all possible weather conditions, such as dry heat, humid heat, tropical and subtropical climates, as well as in the arctic and at heights exceeding 15,000 feet. All Steiner prism glasses are nitrogen-filled and the lenses are firmly screw-mounted. Total water protection demands that the binoculars be individualfocus and truly immersible. The 7x50 Commander must pass a 45-minute test under 15 feet of water before shipment.

A recent trip to Mazatlan, Mexico, provided an opportunity to test the cleaning method recommended by Steiner-Optik. After a week on the beach, I rinsed the 7x50 Commander, covered with sand and salt scum, under fresh running water. Carefully drying the multicoated optical surfaces with lens tissue, I found the binocular unscathed from its abuse.

An assignment to cover a live-fire Blue Force training mission of a tank platoon of the 1st Battalion, 73rd Armor, at Ft. Irwin, Calif. (see "Blue Force Blast," SOF, December '82), placed the 7x50 Commander right in the center of the Mojave Desert and six-inch-deep powdery dust churned up by five M60A1 main battle tanks. This time the binocular almost failed to make it back; not, however, as a result of the climatic regimen. The FO for the support company's 4.2-inch mortar platoon was so impressed by the crisp brilliance of the Steiner's image quality (as were all of the many who used the binocular), that I feared its permanent liberation from my possession.

By 1980, the Steiner 8x30 military model alone was responsible for more than a million units. I predict Steiner binoculars will soon prove as popular here as they have been throughout the rest of the world as, almost unbelievably, the price also is right on the mark. The 7x50 Commander with compass is the most expensive model with a suggested list price of \$830. The other rubber-armored Steiner military binoculars, without compass, are priced as follows: 8x30, \$210; 7x35 Wide Angle, \$278; 7x50, \$348; and 10x50, \$390. For readers on the West Coast interested in the Steiner line, contact Northwest Telescope and Binocular Shop, Dept. SOF, 4720 S.W. Scholls Ferry Rd., Portland, OR 97225. 灾

SOF'S PLAXCO WINS U.S. IPSC TITLE

PRACTICAL Shooting World Champion Ross Seyfried was overheard to say that the 1982 IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) National Championship was "one of the best matches I've ever shot." But he added that it was so hard that it "chewed everybody up."

That is, everybody but SOF-sponsored winner, J. Michael Plaxco, second-place Seyfried and steady third-place John Sayle.

That pretty well sums up the competition at the Milan, III. Rifle Club,

ABOVE: U.S. Region Director and SOF Small Arms Editor Jake Jatras poses between SOF-sponsored Shoot-off finalists J. Michael Plaxco and Craig Gifford. Jatras's course design challenged the best in the nation; another Jatras design tested shooters at 1982 SOF Three-Gun Match. RIGHT: Mickey Fowler bursts from car and starts reload while running Cooper Assault.

from 22 through 25 September 1982, where one of the real stars was the demanding, realistic and imaginative course designed by IPSC U.S. Region Director Jake Jatras. Some complained that the disaster factor reigned supreme, but, again, Seyfried pointed out that the course asked nothing more than speed and accuracy: There were no gimmicks.

Black Canyon Shoot-off - bor-





JANUARY/83

Text & Photos by Bill Guthrie



LEFT: Root, hog or die: South African National Champion and team captain Gavin Carson throws himself under the bars in Cooper Assault Match as he tries to cover mud-sensitive gun and magazines. BELOW: Like kids at Christmas, Ross Seyfried shares Mike Plaxco's excitement as winners ransack room full of prizes. Plaxco brandishes CAR-15 for his share of booty.

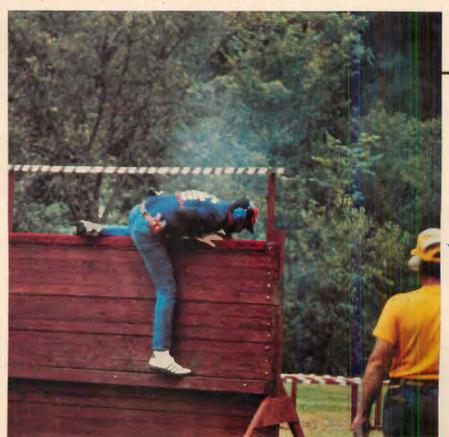


rowed from the SOF 1981 Three-Gun Match (see "Shootout at Black Canyon," SOF, March '82) - was the first test. It was an extended, controlled and ritualized quick-draw contest that thoroughly tried the shooter's ability to perform the movie shootist's stock-in-trade. In six successive stages, three targets were repeatedly engaged at distances from 35 to seven vards and each contestant fired 42 rounds. Mike Dalton, of Mission Hills, Calif., had the score to beat with an almostperfect 207 out of a possible 210.

The second match was a muchmodified Cooper assault course. The aspirant to the national crown blew big holes in cardboard bad guys as he ran from his starting position inside a big, old, white car across the rain-slick grass over a high wooden wall (without knocking off the precariously perched penalty bar 20 inches above the top), cockroaching for eight feet under a series of bars 24 inches off the muddy ground (while trying to keep his gun out of the goo) and sprinting for a barricade with a low window through which he tried to hit (onehanded, no less) the stop plate. The grueling course demanded 10 shots fired at five targets and one more for the stop plate.

Daddy Long-legs Plaxco quickly eases under tricky penalty bar atop climbing wall in Cooper Assault.





Needless to say, a number of nationally-ranked shooters met untimely ends.

Without making an obituary column out of this report, Raul Walters had a good chance of gunning down everybody there, but he knocked off the penalty rail and had 10 seconds added to his time in the Comstockcomputed event. Ten seconds weigh onerously when champion's clocks are getting stopped in the neighborhood of 25 seconds. Walters bought the offending bar from the match officials and beat and stomped it to pieces before a group of cheering competitors. Ross Seyfried won that stage with 48 points and no penalties in 25.22 seconds.

Shooters were inspected for concealment of their pistols, whereupon they drew and fired at least one bullet at each of five targets mixed in with white-barred "captives," stopping the time with a bullet to the plate. Two runs were scored for the total. Tom Campbell won the event in 11.55 seconds with 48 points and no penalties.

Match four was the Seyfried-designed "Colorado Speed Shoot." This is a freer exercise of the sort seen in the first match: good oldfashioned gun-slinging. The only problem was the hostages. Whitebarred targets represented the innocent victims of the villains, and shooting one could just about finish you. Again, the gunslingers ran this course twice for a total score from at least 12 rounds fired.

Tom Campbell and SOF-sponsored veteran Ken Hackathorn greased good guys, ruining their hopes and leaving the field for the go-for-broke types with nothing to lose, like Montrose, Colo., realestate broker Paul Miller. Miller figured he wasn't getting anywhere by being slow-and-steady so, in a wild 10.15 seconds, he blew the cardboard villains to hell — nearly four-tenths of a second faster than next-best John Sayle. (Miller finished 55th overall, in spite of winning this stage.)

Followed closely by Tom Campbell, the big winner of match five was Dave Stanford, who shot the target-crowded "Cafe Classic" in 16.22 seconds with no penalties and 58 points. Not bad for a match that dashed the first-place hopes of Mike Dalton and Mickey Fowler. The "Cafe Classic" started with the shooter seated at an umbrellashaded table. Starting with a glass to his lips, the shooter had to find three legitimate targets at a table and in and behind a car through a bewildering forest of props and noncombatant targets. Shooters got four runs for a total time and total points from at least 16 rounds aimed

at three targets and the stop plate.

Match six - "The Superman Boogie" - was named for the phone booth that couldn't be found. so a wall-model residential telephone nailed to a painted plywood barricade was the starting line. Winner Tom Campbell stood with his one-of-a-kind S&W .45 self-loader holstered and the phone handset at his head. At the signal he ran to another barricade, shot two targets behind a third wall, before he ran to an open barrel laid flat on the ground. There he shot another target behind cover. Then he panted to a windowed barricade and crouched for shots at marks in windows of a facing barrier. Finally, he sprinted to a tire where he had to leave one foot planted as he steadied himself for a 10-yard shot at a six-inch-square stop plate.

A custom gun could not win match six; it takes a first-class gunman to successfully engage the four targets and stop-plate while avoiding five hostages with a minimum of 12 shots at ranges from five to 25 yards. As if that weren't bad enough, the course had to be run twice for score. Campbell finished the two runs in 20.54 with a total of 49 points. Some couldn't run the course in that time without shooting. The Superman Boogie was another fine example of a demand-

PRACTICAL SHOOTING: PRACTICAL GUNS?

United States Region IPSC Director Jake Jatras lampooned Tom Campbell at the awards banquet for shooting "a \$30,000 out-of-the-box pistol." Of course, Jatras did not mean that Campbell was the only competitor swinging a special gun. But he did point out an apparent anomaly in the sport that calls itself "practical" shooting. Hardly anybody at the Nationals was slinging the guns that cops, soldiers or homeowners carry for defense.

There must have been more of them, but I saw only one stock pistol used at the Milan contest: It was an H&K P7 PSP. The owner was not very high on the charts.

This sort of thing doesn't seem to irritate the consciences of "stock" car racers and fans. Anything one could buy off the showroom floor could not be counted on at Daytona. Why does it bother shooters?

Part of the problem is the implicit — and sometimes explicit — squabble between "target"

shooters and "practical" shooters. Having put themselves in the position of being guardians of the true faith, the practical shooters have entirely understandable crises of conscience about a number of things. The guns are not as close to "stock" as an out-of-the-box Hammerli free pistol, kills don't win (points and time do) and "practical" targets don't shoot back.

All that is true, and it does compromise the "practical" principles espoused by IPSC, but these arguments do not invalidate the use of special weapons. As in automobile racing, practical shooting is the advance experimentation ground for the weapons of the future.

In spite of the hue and cry raised against optical sights at the Bianchi Cup match, they did work. It is interesting to note that many of the world's most advanced experimental assault rifles are equipped with optical sights, and testing seems to suggest that they decrease training time and aid in rapid target acquisition. Significantly, there

were no optical sights at the IPSC Nationals, but it is difficult to say whether this was a function of relatively short ranges of engagement, speed requirements, need for concealability, latent conservatism or Nationals jitters.

Less controversial, but still the object of much grumbling, different types of gas-redirection recoil and muzzle-rise compensators were everywhere. Some say no cop carries this on a duty gun. This is most likely true, but if a muzzle brake were developed that was small enough and light enough and cheap enough, wouldn't it be as useful on a duty gun as on a competition piece?

IPSC competitors' pistols are the test-beds of the ideas of the future. IPSC is an important popular arena for the discussion and active testing of new accessories for weapons and new kinds of weapons. The guns of the 1982 IPSC National Championship may become the ancestors of more rugged, more safe, more accurate and more portable duty guns used by these shooters' descendants.

ing course based on an entirely probable scenario. It also ate a few topnotch shooters, including wunderkind Brian Enos from Mesa, Ariz.

Two scoreless events gave the spectators a few thrills and gave the competitors a chance to pay expenses. Most of the thrills were found in the last-day shoot-off where the top 16 pistoleros blazed away at steel plates arrayed at different distances, finishing with a time-stop plate. The championship flight went head-to-head as they paired off for fun and glory before a delighted audience of a couple of hundred friends and less fortunate shooters. Soldier of Fortune was well represented with Mike Plaxco and Craig Gifford in the top 16, but we were almost embarrassed by riches in the last gunfight. Both of the merc-mag good-guys made it to the last heat. Sadly, one of them had to lose (viz. The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance) and Plaxco carried away top honors in that, too.

Plaxco made his victory look much more one-sided than it was by posting the highest time in the falling-plate shoot. As often as he wanted, a shooter could pay \$1.50 to compete in the unscored match where he knocked down plates for time. Top man each day carried off half the pot. John Shaw took two of the prizes in successive three-second times, but Plaxco did as well one day when Shaw didn't, and then bested everybody with a 2.9.

The 1982 IPSC Nationals were significant for great shooting, but important organizational gains were made, too. The high standard of performance at practical shooting events was guaranteed by the first National Range Officers Seminar, and the founding of the IPSC Range Officers Institute.

Safety was guaranteed by new construction at the Milan Rifle Club, as well as by competent officials. Nine-foot-tall reinforced-concrete walls divided the courses in the new multiple-use area.

Comfort was served by free beer and roast pig supplied by Soldier of Fortune Magazine as well as by the beauty of the wooded hills surrounding the course. Mike Plaxco must have been further comforted by a \$1,000 award, donated by SOF for the winner. The Milan Rifle Club is as safe, convenient and attractive a shooting range as anyone could wish, and it shall certainly see more good use by IPSC competitors.

The IPSC National Championship was a great success. Shooters numbered 295, including the South African National Practical Shooting Team. The matches were run smoothly and judged fairly by expert officials. Difficulty, diversity and realism were all available in the shooting courses. Good sportsmanship and good fellowship distinguished this important 1982 practical shooting championship, exemplified by the winner and new national champion, J. Michael Plaxco. 突







ABOVE: Beauty and the Beast: Women's champion Lee Cole shines at award presentation by Jake Jatras. UPPER RIGHT: Championship hopeful Mickey Fowler squeezes a few tenths of a second by contortion shot in Superman Boogie, RIGHT: Gunsmoke: Speed and accuracy distinguished winners of matches like Speed Concealed Carry, Match Three.

FROM the grim stone barracks of East Germany to the mountains of Afghanistan — wherever the clanking, mechanized presence of the Soviet Army is felt — the weapons abound. They are not as apparent as the heavily armored main battle tanks, or the high-technology anti-tank guided missiles, but they are part of an overall, integrated system of war — the Soviet way of war. These invisible killers are the weapons of chemical warfare.

Chemical warfare is as common to the Soviet Army as the coarse, dark bread it eats. In the Soviet armory, chemical weapons stand alongside atomic bombs as "weapons of mass destruction." Their very existence shapes and molds the pattern of modern conflict, because the Soviets realize that their use can change the whole complexion of a battlefield in an instant. One aircraft with an aerosol spray can do as much damage to a military unit as tactical nuclear weapons: The Soviets are determined that it will not be their units that so suffer.

For that reason, they have developed and stockpiled a massive store of chemical weapons, with efficient delivery systems. These weapons are the product of years of intensive research and development, and apparently include forms of poison gas that, until recently, only appeared in the West in the bad dreams of a few scientists.

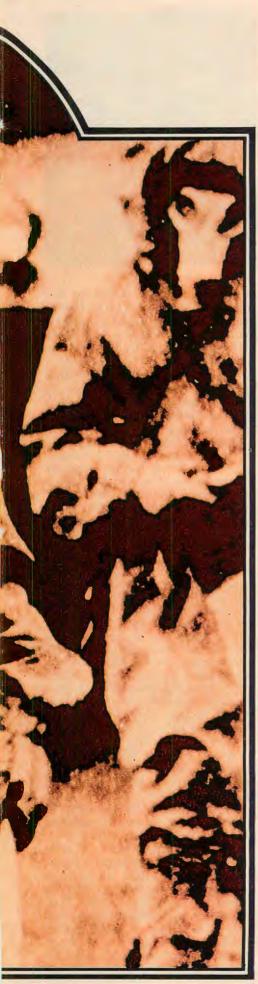
The bad dreams have now become very real. They have become real in Yemen, in Afghanistan, in Laos, in Cambodia and possibly also in Ethiopia. If the Soviet Army should ever go into action against the United States Army, there is no reason to assume that the GI will be treated any better than the Afghan or Hmong. Unless he has sufficient protective gear (such as masks or suits) or powerful retaliatory offensive weapons (more poison gas), the American soldier will be, for all his equipment and training, just as vulnerable as more primitively armed enemies of the Soviets.

The Soviets match their stockpiles of offensive weapons with equally impressive defensive preparations. With a wide range of decontamination and protective equipment, Soviet units can operate in a chemical warfare environment, following up their own gas attacks or warding off the effects of an enemy that has a retaliatory capability. These defensive measures are as important a part of the Soviet chemical warfare capability as the gas-filled shells, rockets and bombs themselves.

The Soviet Army can wage chemical warfare better than any other army in the world. And they do wage it, day in and day out, in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Here is a catalog of the Russian chemical arsenal:

Irritant Agents. These are the commonly known "tear" or "riot control"





RED RAIN Anybody Ready for Communist Chemicals?

by David C. Isby

agents. Not normally lethal, they are not banned under the 1925 Geneva Accord. The North Vietnamese fired captured CS tear gas at U.S. forces in Vietnam. The Soviets apparently made extensive use of a concentrated version of CN gas in Afghanistan. The North Vietnamese used the same sort of gas in Laos, but with a twist — they dropped it into water supplies. These agents are fatal if swallowed, but normally only irritate if inhaled. They last only a few minutes.

Incapacitating Agents. These attack not the body, but the mind. The U.S.-developed BZ gas — basically LSD-25 — was a failure. Soviet research and development, however, appears to have yielded a breakthrough in this type of gas. In Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan, there have been reports of a gas that rapidly causes nausea, vertigo and unconsciousness. Only gas-warfare technology far advanced from that known in the United States could produce such a weapon. Its tactical significance is obvious — it can allow victories without bloodshed. Gas such as this could be used in close proximity to friendly troops or civilians. Non-fatal, it could be used under the provisions of the 1925 Geneva convention.

Choking Agents. Largely obsolete, these were the most deadly gasses of the First World War. Fatal if inhaled, they can be stopped by most standard gas masks. They are still deadly against unprotected troops. There is strong evidence of Soviet use of phosgene - the most common choking agent - in Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan.

Vomiting Agents. These agents, of which Lewisite is the best known, are also old. They can be used against troops not wearing their gas masks vomiting would make it hard to put on masks. They persist for several hours. No Soviet use has been reported in recent years, but it is probable that this gas remains in stockpiles.

Blister Agents. The first persistent gasses, the best-known of which is mustard gas, which blisters and destroys lungs if inhaled. Its fumes can blister skin and blind. Impregnated garments are required for protection. The Soviets may still have stockpiles of this old gas, although it is likely to have been replaced.

Blood Agents. An old, easily produced, non-persistent gas which must be delivered in quantity to be effective, but then can be deadly. Hydrogen cyanide is the best known. The Soviets have large, active stockpiles.

Nerve Agents. These are the main weapons of modern chemical warfare. Invented by the Germans before the Second World War, nerve agents restored a decisiveness to chemical warfare that it had not had since 1915. The starting point for both U.S. and Soviet poisongas research and development was Tabun, a wartime German nerve agent, which, while obsolescent, may remain in Soviet service. The workhorses of the Soviet stockpile appear to be Sarin (GB), Soman (GD, the most common) VR-55 (thickened GD) and VX gasses. They are inhaled or absorbed and a minute amount will cause death within 15 minutes unless treated with an antidote. Persistence varies from hours to weeks, and they must be carefully washed from contaminated personnel and equipment. Extensive evidence exists that the Soviets have used nerve agents in Afghanistan. They have also been used in Laos, Cambodia and Yemen.

While "poison gas" is the generic term for these weapons, it is not a strictly accurate one. Many of them are liquids. The "Yellow Rain" itself is a fine solid, although some particles are reportedly so coarse that they can be heard as they come down. Most agents are deadliest when breathed. Most are also deadly when applied directly to unprotected skin in larger doses - although



RED RAIN

phosgene and hydrogen cyanide cannot cause casualties this way, all the nerve agents certainly can. All except the non-persistent gasses, such as phosgene, hydrogen cyanide and some nerve agents such as Sarin can also cause casualties if simply sprayed on the ground. They persist there, active and deadly, waiting to be inhaled or absorbed.

The Soviets believe in chemical weaponry. There are more than 50 plants producing or capable of producing chemical weapons in the Soviet Union, and more than 40 chemical and biological weapons storage depots in Eastern Europe and European Russia alone. The Soviets realize that if chemical weapons are to be decisive, they must be used extensively.

The United States and the Soviet Union both started from the same point in poison-gas technology - with the capture of German Tabun nerve gas in 1945. This gas - a quantum jump in lethality over earlier gasses — led to more advanced families of nerve gasses which emerged in the 1950s and 1960s. U.S. chemical warfare research and development, however, seemed to move like a minuet — one step forward, one step back, one step to the side — while that of the Soviet Union advanced to a driving tempo. After the widespread slowdown of U.S. chemical warfare capabilities in the early 1970s, the gap can only have widened.

We are now faced with the possible existence of a family of Soviet chemical weapons that have no Western equivalent, simply because no one except the Soviets have expended the time and money to deploy gasses that are not even thought of in the United States. If one nation were to halt its development in any critical field of modern weaponry,

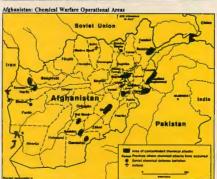
such as, say, electronic warfare, while its competitor treated it as a high-priority area, it should be to no one's surprise that a tremendous disparity in the quality as well as quantity would result.

This, it appears, is what has happened in chemical warfare. The Soviets have fielded a new range of poison gasses so advanced that we have a difficulty understanding them — let alone devising countermeasures. They are so advanced we do not even know what to look for — which is why it took so many years for the West to determine what Yellow Rain was.

The most chilling, potentially decisive of the new Soviet gasses is called simply "The Flash." Only once has it left hard evidence: a firing line of Afghan guerrillas, peering through the sights of their rifles, cold, stone dead — as if frozen. Reports of other uses of this gas have come out of Afghanistan. An examination of reports from the Yemen War of 1963-67 has also supposedly brought to light an incident that might be a use of this gas. Other, unconfirmed, reports have suggested that it may even have been used against Eritrean guerrillas.

There is no nerve agent known in the unclassified literature that produces symptoms like The Flash. Even the most concentrated nerve agent does not kill instantly, but causes initial convulsions. Tactically, the delivery of nerve gas will usually give time for some countermeasures or, failing that, for the application of antidotes if troops have been exposed. The Flash would apparently give







no warning of any sort. Those who died from it, in the words of a State Department official, "just forgot to breathe." We do not know what it is, how it acts, how widespread it is in the Soviet stockpile, or whether any of the U.S. Army's protective equipment is effective against it. The Flash is perhaps the ultimate nightmare weapon, and the nightmare is not made any less frightening by ignorance.

More widely known, but just as hard to explain, is the new Soviet incapacitant, "Blue-X." It has seen relatively widespread use. The State Department has presented clear and convincing evidence of its use in Laos, Cambodia and Afghanistan. Other reports suggest that it was also used during the Sino-Soviet border clashes in 1969.

The tactical value of this gas, which quickly causes unconsciousness, is tremendous. Just imagine, for example, how the U.S. raid on Teheran could have been carried out if supported by this sort of gas — the objective taken with no resistance or bloodshed. Taking prisoners for intelligence-gathering becomes simple. Better still, under the Anglo-American interpretation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibiting use of chemical weapons, Blue-X is not covered because it is not a lethal gas. What could an opponent do against a Soviet force using Blue-X? Escalate to nerve gas? Fire back tear gas? The options are as unpleasant as the gas itself. As with The Flash, the exact nature of Blue-X is unknown.

The third type in the new family of Soviet chemical weapons, tricothecene toxins, is the infamous Yellow Rain. Thanks to the devoted efforts of a few people — State Department officials, journalists (including, I am proud to say, some of my Soldier of Fortune colleagues — see "Yellow Rain!" SOF, March '82), members of Congress and others — the Yellow Rain is fast becoming the symbol of the new Soviet imperialism, made more brutal by the application of a highly advanced technol-

ogy. In the words of the Wall Street Journal: "Except on the fringes of opinion, no informed American any longer doubts that Soviet-supplied armies are using 'yellow rain' in Southeast Asia."

The toxins are a simple sort of weapon. Developed from a form of bread mold that has been endemic to the Soviet Union for centuries, they represent a new type of poison gas. They have the potential to be up to 100 times as effective as nerve agents. They are hard to detect - current U.S. Army gas alarms would probably not be adequate. Their small particles allow them to go through most filters. While no official reports have been published as to whether the standard M17 U.S. gas mask can be penetrated, it is not an encouraging situation, especially if the Yellow Rain is used in conjunction with other gasses. Indeed, it appears that most Soviet protective equipment may not be proof against Yellow Rain - which explains why its use in Afghanistan is limited to areas in which no Soviet troops are operating.

Tactically, Yellow Rain is an economy-of-force weapon par excellence. One airstrike can wreak as much havoc and destruction as a large-scale ground operation, without fighting or casualties. In Afghanistan, the Soviets realize that since, as Mao said, the guerrilla moves among the people as a fish moves in the sea, it is necessary to drain the ocean. The Soviets obviously do not want the Afghans to stay at home where they can feed and shelter their countrymen who are fighting the invaders. They want the Afghans to die, or, failing that, to become refugees in Pakistan, further burdening that nation. In some areas, the Soviets do this by moving in with combined-arms ground assaults, destroying the agriculture. The other alternative is the Yellow Rain. When the Afghans see people dying in agony, they are not going to wait around for the Soviets to come back and try again. They are likely to head for Pakistan and

Rear-echelon rolling decontamination chamber of DDA-53 truck treats clothing and small equipment in hot cleaning fluid in two chambers. Drawing courtesy David Isby



Horror-movie set of Sov chemical training; Military Chemical Forces troops move through glowing wasteland with VPKhR chemical sensors. Chemical troops cannot be expected to work and wear standard OP-1 suit, so they are issued L-1 protective suit in light butyl-covered fabric. Photo courtesy David Isby

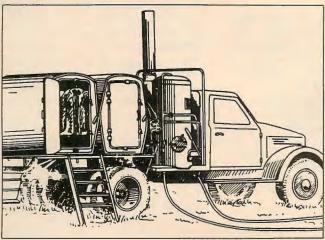
safety. Terror is an effective weapon in the hands of those who know how to employ it. To the Soviets, it seems a natural tool.

The Soviet arsenal of overlapping families of chemical weapons allows them to tailor each chemical strike to the specific tactical situation. For example, the U.S. POMCUS equipment parks, prepositioned in Germany for use by troops flown in from the States, are splendid targets for a persistent nerve agent such as VR-55, delivered by aircraft or long-range missiles. By the time the U.S. Army had decontaminated the hardware, the Soviets could well have arrived to take over what was left. Air-

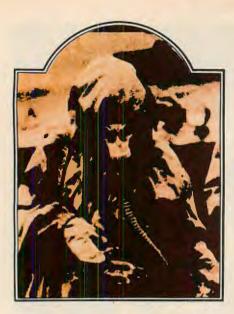
fields are also targets for persistent gas
— not least because it leaves the runways
intact for subsequent Soviet use.

Nonpersistent gas would be used against units holding ground that the Soviets themselves want to occupy, such as an important hilltop. Hydrogen cyanide, delivered by multiple rocket launchers, could well be the weapon of choice in these circumstances. The nonpersistent nerve gas, Sarin, could also be used. Most nerve agents can either be sprayed into the air or used as a ground contaminant. Mustard gas is also primarily a contaminant. Although this makes the gas slower acting and higher doses are needed to kill than when gas is

The standard Soviet OP-1 protective suit can be worn as a cape, a coat or overalls. Drawing courtesy David Isby







RED RAIN

distributed in the air, ground contamination by a persistent agent could allow the Soviets to put an effective barrier to troop movement on a battlefield.

The interaction of gasses makes each more effective. A strike with hydrogen cyanide will saturate the filters of U.S. gas masks. While the GIs are trying to cope with that the Soviets will hit them with something more lethal. (Unmasked troops might be hit with a vomiting agent to prevent their donning masks, then felled by a quick follow-up strike of more deadly gas.) The Soviets believe in the effectiveness of interlocking, complementary systems throughout their armed forces — be they radars, anti-air-

craft guns, or poison gas. The whole is much worse than the sum of its parts.

Just about any Soviet weapon at least as large as a 120mm mortar is capable of delivering chemical projectiles. The whole range of Soviet artillery - especially the standard 122mm and 152mm towed and self-propelled howitzers — is considered to be capable of using chemical weapons. The standard Soviet artillery units of fire contain no gas shells. When the decision is made to use gas, gas shells that are held, in peacetime, by special caretaker units will be delivered to the guns. Estimates of the total Soviet artillery stockpiles of gas shells vary widely, but the most reliable figures put it at about five percent of the total number of rounds.

The best Soviet weapon for gassing front line troops, however, is the multiple rocket launcher. Advanced versions of the Katyusha "Stalin Organs" of WWII, the most common version is the 40-tube 122mm BM-21 truck-mounted rocket launcher. This rocket also comes in individual, manpacked tube versions, allowing light infantry such as Soviet special forces — or the People's Army of Vietnam - to bring them where the action is. The sound of the "one-twotwo" rocket is terrifying. The gas they can carry is a lot quieter. but even more deadly. These rockets are area-fire weapons — they saturate an area, rather than seeking out a pinpoint target.

A battalion of 18 BM-21s in one salvo can create lethal concentrations of gas over an area greater than two square kilometers. This concentration makes them especially effective in using blood agents, which require a high concentration to work and would dissipate if agent density had to be built up slowly. Because the 720 122mm rockets of a BM-21 battalion salvo will arrive on target



SOVIET ARTILLERY CHEMICAL DELIVERY SYSTEMS — MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION

Туре	Range	Number Per Division	Rounds and Area Covered Per Battery Volley
120mm M-1943			
mortar	5.7km	60	6Q4km²
122mm D-30			
howitzer	15.3km	108	608km²
152mm SP			
howitzer	24.0km	18	61 km²
FROG-7			
Rocket	70.0km	4	2.8 km²
122mm BM-21			
rockets	20.5km	18	2408 km²

These represent the total chemical-warfare delivery assets available to the commander of a high-readiness Soviet motorized rifle division at full strength. In reality, each Soviet division would be reinforced with additional artillery assets. Area coverage is maximum using Sarin.

A CHRONOLOGY OF SOVIET CHEMICAL WARFARE

1914. Russian troops are the targets of the first large-scale use of gas in history, but cold weather renders the gas ineffective.

1914-18. WWI. Russia suffers more heavily from gas warfare than any other nation, suffering 500,000 gas casualties, including 50,000 dead.

1918. Red Army formed, including the Military Chemical Force.

1920-39. Soviet chemical strength increases as poison gas is used against *kulaks* resisting collectivization and Moslem guerrillas in Central Asia.

1939-45. WWII — the Great Patriotic War to the Soviets. While neither side uses offensive chemical weapons, the Soviets keep their chemical troops intact and ready. Large Soviet gas stockpiles are kept ready for

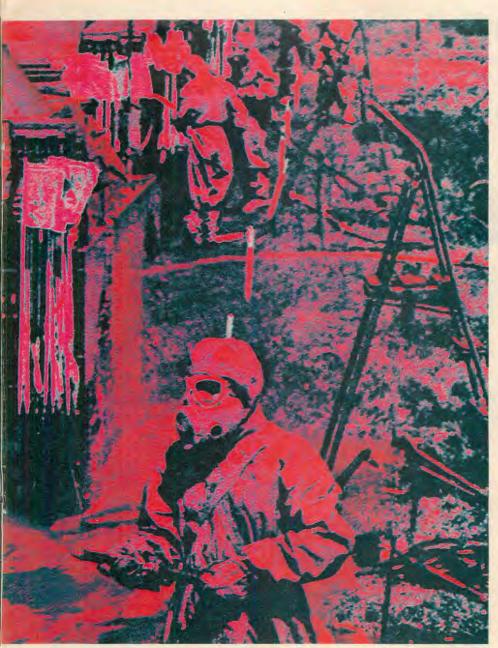
retaliation if the Germans were to initiate gas warfare.

1963-67. The War in Yemen. Soviet-backed Egyptian forces fight Saudi-backed Royalist forces in Yemen. Soviet-supplied (and probably Soviet-flown) aircraft make numerous chemical attacks. World opinion takes note, does little. The Soviets do not miss these implications.

1966-69. Communist use of gas in Vietnam. Using captured U.S. CS gas and similar Chinese-made non-fatal gas, the North Vietnamese conduct limited gas warfare. Only a handful of gas attacks are documented.

1969. The Ussuri River incident. In border clashes between Soviet and Chinese troops, unconfirmed reports mention Soviet use of gas.

1975. Vietnamese use of poison gas in Laos and Cambodia. Starting with the use of non-fatal agents but soon including lethal chemicals. By 1978,



Soviet soldiers decontaminate BRDM-2rkh radiological-chemicalreconnaissance vehicle by washing it down as part of training exercise. Photo courtesy of Department of Defense

within a few seconds of each other, they maintain the vital element of surprise for the Soviets, unlike howitzers or mortars, whose first gas shells could alert those on the receiving end. With the rocket launchers, by the time you realize what you've been hit with, it's probably too late. It is estimated that up to one-third of the Soviet rockets stockpiled for multiple rocket launchers are filled with chemicals.

The FROG surface-to-surface rocket is like the old American Honest John. The larger SCUD-A and SCUD-B missiles are similar to the Pershing. All are reported to have chemical warheads. The sheer size of these weapons means that they can produce high concentrations of gas with a single round.

Combat experience, however, has shown that the usual way of delivering Soviet gas is by air. Bombs may be dropped by both aircraft and helicopters. While aerosol spray systems have so far only been reported on fixed-wing aircraft, there is no reason why they could not also be installed on Soviet helicopters. Just about anything that flies with red stars painted on it is a potential chemical warfare delivery system. One source of grave concern for Western analysts is the many agricultural cropspraying aircraft run by the governments of potential adversary nations, including the Soviet Union and Cuba. While few of the fixed-wing aircraft could operate in the face of modern air defenses, Aeroflot also uses standard Mi-8 Hip transport helicopters in this role in the USSR. Against people who lack heavy weapons, or in a surprise attack, these crop-dusters have the potential to become horribly effective weapons, since their airframes are already treated against the corrosive effects of chemicals, and their air and ground crews trained in the handling and delivery of toxic substances.

The air-delivered systems have a devastating potential. A *Hind* helicopter gunship could carry four standard Soviet chemical bombs, believed to be 250kg types containing about 100kg of agent. Filled with Sarin, a single bomb could cover half a square kilometer. Standard aerosol spray tanks contain about 400kg of agent. A MiG-27 *Flogger-D*, the standard Soviet-bloc attack aircraft (also used by the Cubans) can carry four of these. Just one tank can cover four square kilometers with Sarin. The thought of a single flight of *Floggers* flying down the front lines of unprotected

the "Yellow Rain" was apparently in widespread use, and remains so until the present. Evidence of close Soviet involvement is considerable. There is no evidence the Vietnamese are capable of producing chemical weapons on their own.

1979. Sverdlovsk Incident. Accident at a Soviet biological-warfare plant causes many civilian casualties.

1979. Sino-Vietnamese War — unconfirmed reports of use of Soviet-supplied chemical weapons by the Vietnamese against the Chinese. May be the first time since 1918 when both sides used chemical weapons in action.

1979. The Afghanistan War — The Soviet Union enters its longest, dirtiest, bloodiest war. No longer relying on proxy forces, the Soviets make use of a wide variety of chemical weapons. By summer 1981, the U.S. State Department has confirmed reports of

47 gas attacks claiming at least 3,042 lives

1980. Eritrea — Unconfirmed reports of the use of nerve agents by Soviet forces acting in support of Ethiopian suppression of Eritrean guerrillas.

HOW DEADLY IS DEADLY? COMPARATIVE LETHALITY OF CHEMICAL AGENTS

Type of Gas	Lethal Dose	Time to Kill
Phosgene	3,200mg/m ³	3-24 hours
Mustard Gas Hydrogen	1,500mg/m ³	4-24 hours
Cyanide	5,000mg/m ³	1/2-15 min.
Tabun	400mg/m ³	10-15 min.
Sarin	100mg/m ³	2-15 min.
Soman	70mg/m ³	1-15 min.
VR-55	36mg/m ³	4-10 min.
Tricho-		
thecene	15mg/m³	"minutes to hours"

Lethal dose is expressed in terms of milligrams of gas per cubic meter required to be breathed to cause a 50-percent chance of lethality.

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troops, spray tanks squirting, is not a pleasant one, but it is a reminder that chemical weapons are a powerful "force multiplier." They allow a small force to have far greater effectiveness.

These major systems can be supplemented by a number of smaller ones. The Soviets use a number of chemicalfilled land mines. Reports from Afghanistan have mentioned the use of incapacitating agents in hand-held anti-tank rocket launchers. If these reports are true, then every level of Soviet military command, from sergeants leading squads to the old men in the Kremlin, has the capability to deliver chemical weapons.

Defensive preparations are a vital part of the Soviet emphasis on chemical warfare. Because of the weakness of the chemical weapons used by the United States and their absence in the arsenals of other potential Soviet adversaries in NATO only France has chemical weapons and Chinese capabilities are thought to be limited - the Soviets have really not had to plan against the extensive use of poison gas against them. Yet for many years, despite the lack of credible U.S. chemical-warfare deterrent, Soviet defensive chemical warfare was the finest in the world. It was only in the late 1970s that the U.S. Army started to take defensive chemical warfare seriously, and it still has a long way to go before it is as capable of operating in a chemical environment as the Soviet Army.

Defensive chemical warfare is the responsibility of the Voenno Khimicheskaya Voiska — the Military Chemical Forces. Commanded by a Deputy Minister of Defense, the 100,000 men of the Military Chemical Forces serve all of the Soviet armed services, not just the Army. They are specialists in detecting chemical weapons, conducting reconnaissance for their effects, and in decontaminating personnel and equipment. Units of the Chemical Forces are found at all levels of command, with each regiment having a company, each division a battalion, each army (equivalent to a U.S. corps) a reinforced battalion. They train the chemical warfare specialists found in each Soviet company.

But while these specialists devote their full attention to chemical warfare, the defensive capabilities of the average Soviet soldier are not neglected. Unlike his U.S. counterpart, he probably has the benefit of a collective protection system. First-line Soviet BTR-60PB APCs and BMP infantry fighting vehicles all have chemical defenses, as do Soviet tanks. But only the BMP adds a chemical/biological-agent filter to the combination of overpressure and a blower/dust extractor mounted on the other vehicles. These are more effective systems than the largely nonexistent U.S. protective measures but they still do not provide a "shirt-sleeve" fighting environment. Only the Czech-designed OT-64 APC, used by non-Soviet Warsaw Pact forces,

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9

Rem. 250 gr. .45 Long Colt LRN No layers penetrated

Rem. 210 gr. .41 Magnum LSWC No layers penetrated





Rem. 158 gr. .357 Magnum JHP One layer penetrated

Fed. 123 gr. 9mm Para. FMC Three layers penetrated





Rem. 115 gr. 9mm Para. JHP Two layers penetrated

W/W 115 gr. 9mm Para. Silvertip No layers penetrated

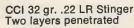




S&W 125 gr. .38 Spl. Nyclad No layers penetrated

W/W 40 gr. .22 Magnum JHP Two layers penetrated





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Thus, on foot or mounted, the Soviet soldier will have to rely on his personal defensive equipment. Like most of what he uses, it is simple, cheap, poorly engineered, but highly effective. He has an OP-1 protective suit, made out of nonpermeable rubberized fabric. When combined with the required protective undergarments, it is an airtight garment that is hellishly uncomfortable to wear for anything more than minutes. The standard ShM gas mask is also fatiguing to wear, but offers effective protection. Only officers and designated personnel have gas masks with voice emitters.



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Everyone else, in true Soviet fashion, is expected to keep quiet and do as he is told. The individual soldier also carries an MSP-18 treatment kit, which includes antidotes for a number of nerve agents and other chemical weapons. (It also includes a roll of "anti-radiation tablets" that are actually placebos.) He also carries an IDP weapons decontamination kit and an IPP personal decontamination kit.

Large-scale decontamination is the responsibility of the Military Chemical Forces, and they have a wide variety of specialized equipment. Most spectacular is the TMS-65. Basically an aircraft turbojet on a truck, it uses heat and decontamination fluid to clean off a tank in one to three minutes. Like most Soviet decontamination equipment, it has nonchemical warfare roles: It can be used as a smoke generator, can melt ice on runways or spray insecticide. More common is the earlier ARS-12U and ARS-14 tank trucks, used to hose down equipment and troops, which also make an acceptable field shower. The DDA-53, also truck-mounted, provides two steam chambers and a boiler for clothing and equipment decontamination.

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automatically dispense warning flags if contamination is found.

But more important still is the Soviet training for defensive chemical warfare. Everyone in the army, from private to marshal, is taught to think in terms of nuclear, biological and chemical war. The Soviet soldier wears his protective suit for up to 25 percent of his field training. Of the total training time of a typical Soviet soldier, 12 percent is devoted to NBC training. The Soviet protective suit is worn on peacetime exercises for up to eight hours. Not only field training is undertaken in full protective gear, but jobs such as vehicle maintenance and games such as basketball. Soldiers train the way they fight. and Soviet NBC training is extensive. Diluted versions of actual toxic chemicals are used in some exercises. The resulting casualties are accepted as part of the realism of training — the Soviets consider three-percent losses acceptable on a major exercise.

Soviet chemical-warfare training starts early. It is part of the pre-induction military training that, by law, every Soviet high-school student is supposed to receive. As a result, the Soviet press runs pictures of schoolchildren being taught how to use their gas masks by their smiling teacher. Soviet Civil Defense forces - an important part of their strategic power — are also trained and equipped for defense against chemi-

cal weapons.

Perhaps the strongest element of the Soviet defensive chemical warfare effort is its place in the Soviet war effort. It is not a second-rate backwater. The Chemical Troops are a well-placed, well-respected force. All officers of any branch of the Soviet Army are required to know about chemical operations.

However, nothing in the Soviet Union works the way it is supposed to. While the total first-priority treatment given to the armed forces ensures that they are far and away the most effective institution the Soviet Union has ever created, there are still very real gaps between paper and performance. Soviet defensive chemical warfare is no exception. The Soviets complain openly that the rigorous training programs are not followed at unit level. Reports of technicians who do not know their jobs and equipment — forcing the officers to do jobs for them - are frequent.





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One key limit to Soviet chemical defenses is that they are not set up to deal with an enemy that will use chemicals against them. Their defensive efforts are aimed at reducing the effects of nuclear weapons or in allowing Soviet units fast and safe passage through areas contaminated by their own chemicals. That is why they have retained their heavy, bulky suit. Although troops do wear it for up to eight hours, in temperate conditions performance begins to deteriorate after 20 to 30 minutes in the suit. The Soviets obviously do not anticipate having to wear the suits for extended periods while waiting for enemy chemical attacks, as the U.S. Army will.

Soviet defensive equipment is old technology and not apparently suited for defense against some of the latest chemical weapons the Soviets have in their own arsenal — which means that the Soviets would not be able to use such weapons in close proximity to their own troops. It is believed that a new generation of defensive chemical equipment will soon be in Soviet service.

The Soviets have professed to have nothing at all to do with biological warfare. They cite their adherence to the 1925 and 1972 conventions and maintain that only the capitalists would use such a horrible weapon. Thus they were able to report an outbreak of an airborne strain of anthrax after a mishap at a suspected biological weapons establishment near the city of Sverdlosvsk in 1979 as caused by "bad meat."

Western sources believe that until the 1972 Biological Warfare Convention and probably - given the evidence at Sverdlovsk — after it as well, the Soviets developed a wide range of diseases as well as countermeasures to them. The Soviets are believed to have developed agents that produce plague, cholera, anthrax, tularemia, lassa fever, ebola fever and marburg fever.

The Soviets define biological warfare as being identical with bacteriological warfare. To the Soviets, the trichothecene toxins of Yellow Rain are not biological weapons because, although organic, they do not reproduce.

The Soviets are less likely to use biological weapons than gas, since the biologicals are less predictable in their results and harder to store and deliver. The Sverdlovsk incident shows that a little accident can be very embarrassing.

The Cuban Armed Forces, following their Soviet mentors, are fully trained in both offensive and defensive chemical warfare. Cuban units have chemical defense troops attached. The scale of issue is smaller than in Soviet units and the equipment less lavishly provided, but the principles are the same as those of the Soviet Military Chemical Forces.

There are unconfirmed reports that there is at least one offensive chemical weapons depot in Cuba. Even if this depot is filled only with small amounts

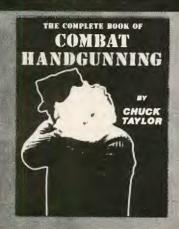
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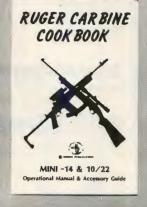


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of gas for training purposes or nonlethal gas, the Soviets could lift in large quantities of chemical weapons in a crisis. Chemical weapons would give Cuba, even with its existing forces, the capability to inflict immense damage to the United States or Latin America. Its existing MiG-27 force, armed with chemical bombs and spray tanks, could slip under the frayed and tattered U.S. radar curtain (which does not detect most of the drug runners, who do not use electronic countermeasures).

If they were to hit cities or strategic targets along the Gulf coast, the effect would be devastating. Against Latin American targets, the Cubans' large crop-dusting fleet could do the same thing. Chemical weapons are a potential equalizer, allowing even little Cuba to do tremendous harm to the United States. Should the balloon ever go up, it would be hard to imagine that Fidel Castro — whom the United States once tried to kill with shellfish toxin — would have too many qualms about carrying out such wholesale destruction.

It may be that, in Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, Yemen and possibly Eritrea, we have only glimpsed the sort of horrors that the Soviets have made part of chemical warfare. In Yellow Rain, The Flash and The Blue-X incapacitant, we have seen evidence of a sophisticated offensive chemical-warfare technology far beyond what has appeared in the West. There is no reason to assume that the list



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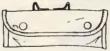
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of new and advanced weaponry stops with these three items. There may well be even more advanced, even more deadly gasses that the Soviets are not willing to test in action, lest the secret eventually reach their opponents. If the Soviets have been willing to invest a tremendous amount of research and development in chemical weapons — as the United States has not — then it may be that they have unlocked a Pandora's box of such weapons. If we do not even know what they are, it is unlikely that we will be able to defend against them.

For many years, the reaction to Soviet chemical warfare has been that of the ostrich — pretend it isn't there and maybe it will go away. Only now is this attitude changing. The U.S. Army is now doing more training under simulated chemical conditions, although both its training and equipment still have a long way to go before thay are as effective as those of the British or the West Germans. As the evidence piles up, it has by now become apparent to anyone not wearing the blinders of ideology that the Soviets and their clients have been using chemical weapons (although formal U.S. protests under the 1925 and 1972 Geneva Accords have been conspicuous by their absence). It should also be more apparent that the Soviets have only refrained from using chemical weaponry when their opponents - such as the Germans in 1941-45 — possessed both the ability and training to defend themselves and the capability to retaliate in kind. Where these capabilities are lacking, the Russians use chemical and biological weapons to render the battlefield uninhabitable for the unprepared.

That is why the Soviets put a correspondingly heavy emphasis on defensive chemical warfare — it is impossible to wage offensive chemical warfare without it. The lack of a serious retaliatory threat, however, has made the Soviets' task easier. Together with the equipment, there is the training, tactics and thinking that sees fighting under chemical conditions not as an unusual or special case, but something that can happen at any time, anywhere on the modern battlefield.

"We have never rejected terror on principle, nor can we do so. Terror is a form of military operation that may be usefully applied." So wrote V.I. Lenin, laying down guidance his heirs still follow faithfully today, To the Soviets, a just war is not won when fought according to agreements or even the standards of common decency, but one that advances the cause of socialism. If the war does that, then victory can be the only end, and to quail at the means used is simply the soft-headed "bourgeois morality" that Lenin despised. Philosophically as much as militarily, the Soviet use of chemical weapons is a complete, wellthought-out system for war. >

Continued on page 39

ran the course in 34 seconds; Plaxco took advantage of his long stride to go through in 28 seconds.

Shoot-offs in America are normally some type of man-versus-man contest, but the British organization decided to try a total surprise match. At best this type of match can be an enjoyable challenge, but at worst it can be a "surprise" not only to the shooters, but to the range officers and designers. This turned out to be the case: A poor design created some difficult situations for all involved.

Saturday morning all of the 20 shooters in the shoot-off were taken to a pub in Heytesbury for safekeeping. Starting with the 20th position, shooters were blindfolded and driven one at a time the five kilometers to the range. The contestant was led to a doorway leading to the targets, had his blindfold removed and was briefed on the stage.

Dunkley was in first, Plaxco second and Hackathorn 13th. The shoot-off was worth 15 percent of

FREE AFGHANISTAN

the total match, points which meant doing well could move Plaxco to the top and certainly improve Hackathorn's standing.

The course consisted of some standard paper targets, a couple of steel silhouettes, two turning targets and a stop plate. The problem was the turning targets. Three seconds after the start signal they flipped aside, but as the shooter advanced, he could still see them. What do you do when you see a target? You got it — you shoot. This,





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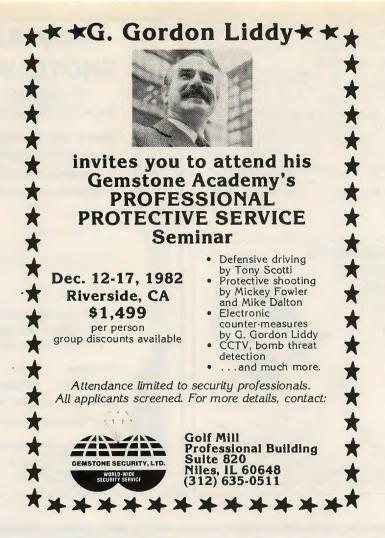
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unfortunately, can make you shoot the silhouette instead of the target.

First a Swiss, then a German, then a Zimbabwe competitor were disqualified for taking the questionable shot on the left-turning target. I realized that this spelled real trouble, as any American would engage a target if he could see it. My prediction came true when Hackathorn, upon spying the turned target, fired at it. The range officer (RO) blew the stop whistle and informed him that he was disqualified for breaking the 180-degree plane, a safety violation. I will not repeat Hackathorn's comments, but he did question the RO's sanity

At this point, as a member of the International Arbitration Committee, I approached the match director, Clive Taylor, and IPSC World President Jorge Almieda of South Africa and requested that this match be discarded from the score. Statistically it was unthinkable that after having run through more than 100 shooters with no safety violations, we could DQ four of the best. It was, however, decided to wait until Plaxco and Dunkley had shot before making a decision.

Bad guys in Arkansas never stand around, as they know they are in for it, and Plaxco like Hackathorn spied the target and shot. Once again the stop whistle blew and the RO informed Plaxco of his violation. To the official's surprise, Plaxco rooted his size 15 Adidas shoes and refused to budge one millimeter until the match director was summoned. (You know how stubborn Yanks can be!)

After examining Plaxco's position in relation to the questionable target, Match Director Taylor overruled the RO and declared the shot legal. But how do you reshoot a total-surprise stage? It simply could not be done. Dunkley as the top seed shot last and did not "foul," but the matter remained a real dilemma for the organizers.

Resolving it in any way other than by an alternate shoot-off would still leave Plaxco in second place — and that is what came to pass. Bob Dunkley took home another European Championship, the Soldier Of Fortune check for \$1,000 and a beautiful cut-glass trophy.

Hackathorn also was denied the opportunity to improve his 13th-place finish, but did enjoy the small funeral service for his faulty magazine that was held at the Mendip Lodge in Frome.

Overall, the match was well run and successful. The next European contest will be hosted by France, and Plaxco is determined to return and prove, "Real men don't eat quiche."

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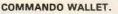
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DU BERRIER

Continued from page 33

main Arab tribes there, du Berrier collected his treasures at the hotel and then spitefully shipped half of them to the wife of a professor he had hated from his art school days in Chicago. (The husband had not appreciated his wife's friendship for du Berrier and had predicted a life of poverty for the art student.)

Then du Berrier began looking for familiar faces in Djibouti. A friend of both Said Abdullah Mohammed, a descendant of the prophet, and Lij Andargue Messai, the Ethiopian counsel in Djibouti, du Berrier was soon in the thick of more plots.

Said Abdullah Mohammed and du Berrier schemed for weeks to start a guerrilla resistance in the south of Ethiopia, but when the plan came to naught, he accepted a job that Messai found for him with the Imam of Yeman.

The French had given the Imam a Breguet 19 and Messai had arranged for du Berrier to be hired as pilot. But shortly thereafter the Imam was assassinated by his *Vizier-el-Harbaya* (minister of war) Syro Abdulla, ending du Berrier's brief employment as a pilot.

Du Berrier left Djibouti as a deck passenger on a German ship heading up to Port Said. On board the ship was a Hungarian baroness, Lydia Maria Von Aztel. A friendship developed and in Port Said they switched to a Greek ship that took them to Greece and Istanbul where they switched to a Romanian ship to Constantsia. They then went overland to Cluj, Romania.

"Drinking hot chocolate on the terrace of the New York Hotel in Cluj, capital of the old Dacia of the Romans, on a beautiful July morning with the Baroness Lydia and Mr. Romul Vuia, curator of the Museum of Ethnography, I read a newspaper that had just arrived from London," said du Berrier. "From the paper we learned that there was a revolt in Spain, led by Gen. Jose Saconell Sanjurjo, the monarchist.





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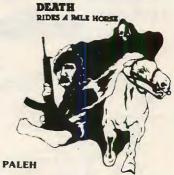
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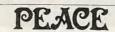


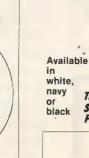


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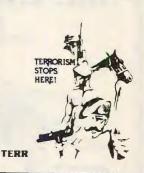
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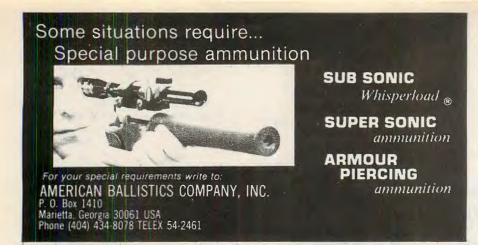
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"I gave the suitcases of plunder I had carried from Ethiopia to Mr. Vuia, on loan, to form a collection for his museum under my name and left for Spain."

Du Berrier saw the war in Spain as a chance to restore Alfonso XIII to the throne and his friend Don Jaime de Bourbon, Alfonso's son, to the line of succession.

It was another golden opportunity for a soldier of fortune. 灾

(To be continued.)

THE CAST

Benny Arnold, American correspondent in Ethiopia, 1935-36. Committed suicide in Wolf City, Texas, 1962.

Baroness Lydia Maria Von Aztel, Hungarian. Lived in Cluj, Romania. In 1942 Baroness Aztel was arrested and imprisoned by the Romanians for supporting a Transylvanian separatist movement. She died in prison.

Jimmy Bach, American pilot in the Lafayette Escadrille. Crashed behind German lines after inserting a spy. Arrested and tried for espionage, he avoided a death sentence because he had enough money to import a brilliant German lawyer from Berlin. For the rest of the war, Bach was Herr President of the American Prisoners' Club, of which, for a long time, he was the only member. Bach lived in Paris until the late '30s, selling Studebaker automobiles and taking Americans on tours of battlefields. Returned to America, fate unknown.

Marie Barnes, French mistress of Baron de Mumm, prior to WWI. Mumm, actually a German, had made a fortune prior to 1914 from visitors to France who ordered his champagne primarily because they could pronounce its name. When Mumm told Barnes he was going to marry an American heiress, she shot him five times, none fatal. He testified for her at her trial and she was released since it was a crime of passion. Mumm was imprisoned by the French during WWI and his fortune confiscated. Broke, he shot himself





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in an attempted suicide in 1932. When the Barnes-Mumm relationship story ran in the Paris papers in 1932, Barnes disappeared. Fate unknown.

Enver Bey, Turkish Minister of War. Bey, whose mother had been a corpse washer, lost everything when Turkey was defeated in WWI. He retreated into Russia wearing a signet ring designating him: "Enver Bey. Commander of the Army, son-in-law of the Sultan." By showing his ring he attracted followers and declared himself Prince of Bokhara. A Russian spy named Aga Bekhov killed him while he was drinking water at Aksu Kuyu well, which means whitewater springs. "The thing that shocked all Turks and all Turkamen was that he shot him while he was drinking water. The Turks believe that not even a serpent will strike while a man is drinking water," said du Berrier.

Don Jaime de Bourbon, Spanish prince, third in line to the throne of Spain. Died peacefully in Paris.

Louise Bryant, American mistress of John Reed, who accompanied Reed to Moscow in 1917 to participate in the Russian Revolution. Bryant was one of the stars of Paris in the '20s because of her relationship with Reed, Lenin and Trotsky, and because she was a beautiful woman. She was pursued by rich and powerful



men, and married William Bullitt, who later became the American ambassador to France. Soon after her divorce from Bullitt, she was severely injured in an airplane crash and came out of the double ordeal an alcoholic.

Bryant and du Berrier became good friends during her days of decline. When she was drunk she would frequently recount to him how Reed had become disenchanted with Lenin and the Bolsheviks soon after the revolution. During one heated argument with Lenin, Bryant heard Reed shouting, "The revolution had retained its purity for only a fortnight." Reed threatened to return to America and "shout the truth from the housetops.

Bryant claimed that Lenin then sent Reed to Baku, knowing that typhoid was raging there. When Reed returned with the disease, Lenin and Trotsky ensured that the medical treatment he received would not save him. Against Bryant's and Reed's wishes, Reed was buried inside the walls of the Kremlin so that Lenin could use the body for propaganda purposes.

Bryant denied all of this when she was sober.

"Louise's story was very sad at the end," said du Berrier. "She sold her jewels and valuables piece by piece to buy alcohol. Waiters would check her

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purse to see if she had enough money before they would give her a drink.

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John Cook, English spymaster in Russia (1922) and China (1942). Died while being tortured by the Japanese in April 1943.

Grand Duke Dimitri, Russian member of the Romanoff family, turned to drugs as it became obvious the Bolsheviks could not be overthrown. Died in Paris during WWII.

Ed Heath, American pilot, died flying his "Parasol" monoplane when the wings folded up during a

Hubert Fauntleroy Julian, "The Black Eagle of Harlem," American. Returned to America in 1936, then became a gun- and drug-runner of some notoriety during and after WWII. Never a good pilot, he crashed planes throughout Latin America until the 1960s. Some say he is still flying or at least in the business — though he would be in his late 60s or older. Or perhaps he crashed for a final time - in some jungle somewhere. He has not been seen in vears.

Kiki, American authoress and one of the leading ladies in Paris in the

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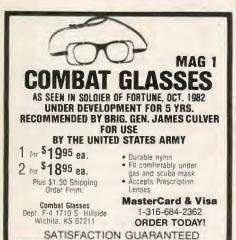
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1930s. Lost all her money and was found dead on a park bench in Montmartre in 1960.

Joyce Kilmer, American poet who wrote the poem, "Trees." He was talked into joining the French forces in WWI by Sweeny and was killed in action near the village of Seringes, France on 30 July 1918.

Dr. Thierry de Martel, French neurosurgeon at the American hospital, shot himself on a balcony in Paris when he caught his first sight of the German troops moving into Paris in 1940.

Lij Andargue Messai, Counsel of Ethiopia in Djibouti in 1936. Married one of Selassie's daughters and held







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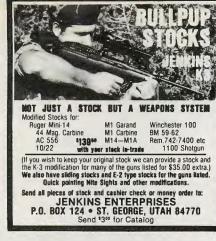
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high office after his father-in-law returned to office. His son, an admiral, was executed by the present regime when it seized power in 1978. Messai now lives in London.

Said Abdullah Mohammed, Arab. Du Berrier presumes he died where he lived, in the Territory of the Afars and Issas — Djibouti.

Wehib Pasha, Turkish Governor of Mecca during WWI and for two years afterward. "Wehib was a fine man," said du Berrier, "regardless of all the lies Lawrence of Arabia wrote about him.

"Wehib answered to his Sultan, who did not send him a message to surrender in 1918. He held Mecca until 1920.

"Wehib Pasha was hired by Selassie to serve as the adviser to Gen. Masibu, commander of the southern front. One day the Italians sent a message asking the Swedish Red Cross to move further to the rear. As soon as Wehib Pasha saw the message, he knew the Italians were going to use gas. So he told the general to move out of there in a hurry. Gen. Masibu laughed at him and said, 'Gas will hurt the foreign devils, but it won't hurt us. We're used to this mountain air.'

"Masibu died in a Swiss hospital from being gassed by the Italians."



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Wehib Pasha escaped the gassing, but disappeared in the 1940s.

Maj. Granville Pollack, American pilot from Lafayette Escadrille and commander of the soldiers of fortune who flew for the Sultan of Morocco in 1923, Died penniless in Texas.

Michael Romanoff, American who pretended to be a Russian prince. Returned to America and eventually opened a successful restaurant called Romanoff's in Hollywood, Calif. His impersonation worked better there than in Paris, where he was ignored by the real Russian royalty. He died in 1978.

Count Carl Gustav Von Rosen, Swedish aviator and explorer. In 1911 he walked from Capetown to Cairo, a distance of 4,510 air miles. Although he took a turn as a soldier of fortune, principally as the head of Ethiopia's Air Force under Selassie from 1946 to 1956, his reputation was made flying relief planes in the Congo and Biafra. In 1977 Somalia went to war with Ethiopia; on 12 July Von Rosen made a relief flight to Gode in Harar Province. The Somalis stormed the town and Von Rosen was captured and killed by a burst of machine-gun fire.

Doc Sparks, American dentist and soldier of fortune, who flew in the war in Morocco, Returned to America. Fate unknown.



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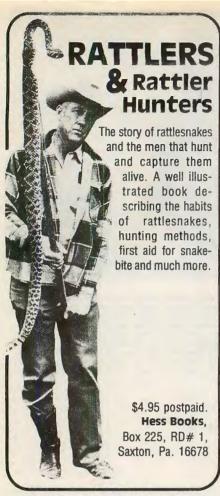
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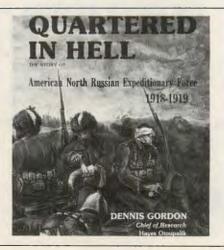
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Suleiman and Waldi, du Berrier's houseboys in Ethiopia, were executed by the Italians on 7 May 1936.

General Maxime Weygand, Belgian, Marshal Foch's Chief of Staff during WWI and the creator of the strategy that stopped the Bolsheviks in Poland in 1920. Born in Brussels on 21 January 1867. There were always rumors about Weygand's background; a popular one was that he was the illegitimate son of King Leopold II of Belgium.

'Weygand was the son of Empress Charlotte of Mexico. He was born at Chateau Miramar in Trieste, Italy, which was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire," said du Berrier.

There are interesting facts that make du Berrier's theory possible.

Charlotte left Maximilian and Mexico in July 1866 to ask Napoleon III to keep his promise to support Maximilian against the Mexican rebels. Napoleon turned her down; she was declared insane in September 1866 and was sent to a Belgian

Weygand, although Belgian, attended the French Military Academy at St. Cyr and had an astronomical career in the French Army for a Belgian with parents listed as unknown on his birth certificate.

Charlotte died in 1927 at the age of 87. The French government selected Weygand to represent France at her funeral.

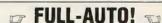
Weygand died in 1965 at age 98. By Jim Graves

ADVENTURER RETIRES

Living the life of adventure is not all that it is cracked up to be. Or so Hilaire du Berrier thought in the late 1930s after he'd escaped from Ethiopia with his life - but little else.

During his brief period of disillusionment, du Berrier wrote "An Adventurer Retires" for Esquire magazine. The article advised young men:

"Forget adventure and be a mug. Get a job that works you so hard and pays so little no one will envy you....If you wander beyond your own horizon, you'll be a 'black



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J. FLORES P.O. Box 14 Rosemead, CA 91770 sheep' in the next one."

According to du Berrier, being an adventurer means "...having every meal come as a pleasant surprise. It's ending up in cursed little ports of heat with a fever and beard and ragged shoes and no money. The end of most every adventure is in some port that you can't get out of, in a room that you can't pay the rent on, looking at a book of pictures and a couple of medals, and using Black Flag for talcum powder."

It also means being despised by American consuls and respectable workaday citizens. "Never tell them that you have seen all those ports on the posters where ships go. They think you haven't any right to have been there and will hate you for having cheated them, or else they'll call you a bloody liar.

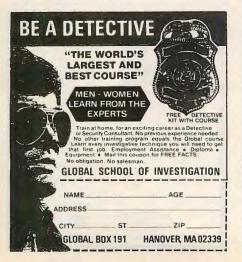
"You get a fever in Djibouti but you haven't the price of quinine, and quinine is the rent you pay on life."

An adventurer frequents places where the tables and seats are "set in concrete so the soldiers couldn't throw them at each other.

"Your passport has too many stamps and visas. They make inquiries at your consulate and the reply is almost sure to plant you in the enemy camp....When you reach Alexandria you're a bloody adventurer and probably a spy — and you can't get off. All of your life will be like that.

"Adventure is months of loneliness with sometimes the loan of a few days of beauty....Don't let anyone tell you women are romantic and will be won by stories you bring back from far places. Security is the only State adventurers never know and that's the only one women want to live in....A revolution starts in Spain and you pack your bags. The lady marries a lawyer and goes to adventure films in the movies.

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Continued from page 17

SOCIALIST SWEDEN? ...

A proposal that would allow trade unions to take over private industry is one of the main planks of Sweden's Social Democrat Party. "Abba," the popular Swedish pop music group, runs several of Sweden's most profitable companies, and is now a prime target for the Socialist program, masterminded by Marxist economists of the Swedish Confederation of Trade Unions.

If put into effect, the plan would force successful firms to pay 20 percent of their earnings to the fund what the unions call "excess profit." Workers would contribute with deductions from their wages. With this cash, the unions would buy shares in profit-making companies.

The Social Democrats won in the general elections on 19 September 1982, and it could mean the beginning of the end for profit-making, free enterprise interests like "Abba." Stig Anderson, the band's manager, said, "If (the Socialists get their way) we would have been forced this year to part with \$2.16 million. Why should I continue to work 14 to 15 hours a day to give away money like this? The funds are just a device so that the unions can get power. It would be disastrous for the country. This may have been the first time that a country has freely voted to go behind the Iron Curtain."

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As the panel voted, it had before it a report saying that in the 1980 Puerto Rican general election, the two parties in favor of a continued link to the United States either as a commonwealth or as a state each received 47 percent of the vote. In other words, 94 percent of Puerto Rican voters opted for continued ties with the United States.

The two parties seeking independence received less than six percent of votes cast. Wouldn't it be nice if the people in the above-named 10 countries could hold free elections and name their own governments?



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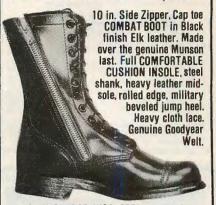
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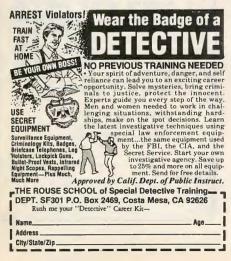


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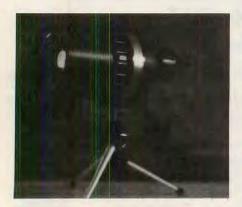
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Continued from page 6

12,000; 14th Ukrainian SS-Division (May 1943) and 1st Division Ukrainian National Army (1945), 80,000. (Heike, Wolf-Dietrich: "The Ukrainian Division 'Galica'." The History Of Its Formation & Military Operations (1943-45). Memoirs of The Shevchenko Scientific Society, Vol. 188, Brotherhood of Former Soldiers of The 1st Ukrainian Div. UNA, Toronto, 1970. Also Bender, James Roger, and Hugh Page Taylor: Uniforms, Organization and History of The Waffen-SS, Vol. IV, 1975.)

We did not intend to imply that the Ukrainians who joined the Gemans did so out of a belief in fascism or national socialism. On the contrary, many members of thse units mistook their very establishment as a sign of change in German policy toward the Ukraine and were encouraged when many of their nationalist leaders were released from the Sachenhausen concentration camp in April 1943 - some of whom then volunteered for these formations. Our sources also indicate that the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, known as the UPA in Ukrainian, fought both with and against the Germans. Clandestine activities against the communists by the UPA were reported as late as 1956. — The Eds.

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ADVERTISERS INDEX

Advertiser	Page
Al Mar Knives	11
American Ballistics Company, Inc American Historical Foundation	80
Apex Wholesalers, Inc	72
Assault Systems	21
Atlan Formularies	19
Bibliophile Legion Books	
Bill Moore Publications	64.68
Bryg's, Inc.	
B-Square Mounts	
Bushmaster Firearms	
Butokukai Ltd	
California Corporation	90
Chesco	
Cloverleaf Books	67
Cobra Defense Accessories, Ltd	86
Cold Steel, Inc.	70,82,87
Cole, Ralph	91
Combat Glasses	85
Creative Horizons	10
Cylinder & Slide Shop, Inc	75
D & E Magazines Mfg	90
Demro Products, Inc	66
Devil's Brigade	
Dolan's Sports	
Doubleday Milltary Book Club	13
Eagle Industries, Unitd.	72
EMGO U.S.A., Ltd.	12
EMK Company	92
Flores, J	78
Freeman Electric Company	
Gardiner Electronics	
Gemini Industries	76
Global School of Investigation,	89
G.O.S., Inc	88
Hess Books	
H.K.S. Products	6
House of Nimrod	84
Howard's	76
Interservice Publishing Company	4,5
Janus Press	89
Jenkins Enterprises	86
JFS, Inc	
Ken Hale	
Kropp Enterprises, Inc	90
Larc International	85
Larder-Survival Books	92
L.E.A.	
Lifeknife, Inc	
LRRP Security Services	
Mag-Na-Port Árms, Inc	82
Magnum Research	. Cover 2
Matthews Police Supply	84
Mil Arm Company	
North American School of Firearms	15
Northwest Telescope & Binocular Shop.	
Paladin Press	
Parellex Corporation	
PFM IncPhoenix Associates, Inc	70
P & S Sales	66
Rick's Army-Navy Sales	80
RMS	92
Rouse School of Special Detective Trn	91
R & R Enterprises	
Safariland	96
Scientific Systems	82
Shadowshirts	80
Silent Partner, Inc	65
SOF Back Issues	81
Spyderco	83
Tiffin International	89
U.S. Cavalry Store	77
USI Corporation	92
Valley Surplus	91
Viet-American	80
Westbury Sales Company	



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